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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

64 VICTORIÆ.

VOLUME LXXXVII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE THIRTIETH DAY OF JULY TO
THE EIGHTH DAY OF AUGUST.

1900.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliament had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Dublin Corporation; Clontarf Urban District Council. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 4

Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill—Reported with Amendments 5

London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill—The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ... 5

London County Council (Improvements) Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 5

Southport and Lytham Tramroads Bill—The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported with Amendments 5

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Alexandra Park Bill—Reported with Amendments 5

London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill—Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 5

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North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Walsall Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to 5

Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 5

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 5

South Lancashire Tramways Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 5

Lancaster Corporation Bill; Farnworth Urban District Council Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 6

London County Tramways (No. 2) Bill—The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified. Moved, "That the Bill be read a third time."—(*The Earl of Morley.*) On Question, agreed to. Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 6

Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 6

Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 6

West Bromwich Corporation Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ... 6

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 7

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 7

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]; Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to ... 7

London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Bill—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 7

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—No. 2491, Borneo (Brunei and Sarawak); No. 2492, United States (Hawaiian Islands) 7

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898—Return showing the total payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year 1899–1900 7

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND)—Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Commissioners. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 7

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LUNACY—Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1900. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 7

APPEAL COMMITTEE—Third Report from ; read, and agreed to 7

Post Office Sites Bill—Reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House To-morrow 8

Oil in Tobacco Bill—Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow 8

Customs Duties (Isle of Man) Bill—Read 2^a (according to Order). Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow 8

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock.

COMMONS: MONDAY, 30TH JULY, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners. The House went—Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (*see page* 1).

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That the Order of the House (8th March), That in the case of Bills reported from the Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations three clear days shall intervene between the date when the Report of the Committee is circulated with the Votes and the Consideration of the Bill, be suspended in the case of the Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*)... 8

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words 'now considered,' and add the words 'recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of a new clause (Power to contribute to rifle ranges).'"—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," put, and negatived.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of a new clause (Power to contribute to rifle ranges).

Bill considered in Committee, and reported ; as amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 10

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Margate Corporations Bill—[Lords]. (By Order)—As amended, considered; Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time,"

Discussion:—

Mr. Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*) 10 *Mr. James Lowther* (*Kent, Thanet*) 10

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Irish Railway Amalgamation Bills—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, The Chairman of Committees (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 11

Message from the Lords—That they have agreed to Amendments to—Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas Bill [Lords]; Barnsley Corporation Bill [Lords]; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill [Lords]; North Eastern Railway Bill [Lords]; Ramsgate Corporation Improvements Bill [Lords]; South Shields Corporation Bill [Lords], without amendment.

That they have agreed to—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Liverpool Corporation Bill; Exeter Corporation Bill; Aberdeen Police and Improvements Bill; Wandsworth and Putney Gas Bill; West Ham Corporation Bill; Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill; South Lancashire Tramways Bill; Lancaster Corporation Bill; Farnworth Urban District Council Bill; London County Tramways (No. 2) Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; West Bromwich Corporation Bill, with Amendments 11

Private Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders not previously inquired into Complied with)—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords]; Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 12

Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways Bill; East London Water Bill; Ilfracombe Improvement Bill; London and North Western Railway (Wales) Bill; London and North Western Railway Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 12

Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water) Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 12

Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel Bill [Lords]—A verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 12

Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 12

Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited, Bill [Lords]—Not amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, without amendment... ... 13

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Ipswich Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 13

Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment) Bill [Lords]—Not amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 13

Salford Corporation Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 13

Withington Urban District Council Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 13

Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed. Ordered, That Standing Orders 211 and 236 be suspended, and that the Committee on the Bill have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 13

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Not amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, without amendment ... 13

Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 14

Tramways Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 14

PETITIONS.

COLLIS, SARAH ELIZA—Petition of Sarah Eliza Collis, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 14

Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland) Bill—Petition from Wick, in favour; to lie upon the Table 14

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Horsham; Colchester (two); Kingston-on-Thames; and Fulham; to lie upon the Table 14

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE—Petition from Plumstead, for legislation, to lie upon the Table 14

Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill — Petitions in favour, from Colchester; Yoxford; and Walpole; to lie upon the Table 14

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND) — Copy presented, of Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 14

LAND REGISTRY—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th May; *Mr. H. D. Greene*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 306] 14

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LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898—Copy presented, of Return showing the Total Payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 15

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2491 and 2492 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 15

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—Lunacy—Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1900 [by Act] 15

CIVIL SERVANTS (RETIREMENT AT THE AGE OF 65)—Copy ordered, "of Treasury Minute, dated the 19th day of July, 1900, stating the circumstances under which certain Civil Servants have been retained in the Service after they have attained the Age of 65, and of the Return therein referred to."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*) Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 307] 15

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—Copy ordered, "of Return of the names, objects, or business, places where business is or was conducted, date of registration, number of persons who signed the Memorandum of Association, total number of shares taken up by such subscribers, nominal capital, number of shares into which it is divided, number of shares taken up, amount of calls made on each share, and the total amount of calls received, of all Joint Stock Companies formed since the first day of January, 1899, to the 31st day of December, 1899, inclusive, distinguishing whether the companies are limited or unlimited, and also the number of shareholders in each of the said companies at the date of the last Return, and whether still in operation or being wound up; of the total number having their registered offices in the City of London, or within five miles of the General Post Office; and of the total number and the paid-up capital of all registered companies which are believed to be carrying on business at the present time."—(*Mr. Ritchie*) 16

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—RECENT NEWS—Question, Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 16

COMMAND AND COMPOSITION OF THE ALLIED FORCES—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 16

PEKING RELIEF EXPEDITION—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 17

RUSSIAN CONTROL OF THE TA-KU AND TIENTSIN RAILWAY—Questions, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 17

GERMAN EMPEROR'S SPEECH AT BREMERHAVEN—Question, Dr. Tanner (Cork County, Mid); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 18

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—BOER TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS—Questions, Mr. James Bailey (Newington, Walworth) and Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 18

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LIEUTENANT DANKS, MANCHESTER REGIMENT—Questions, Mr. Bainbridge (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) and Mr, Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 19

TREATMENT OF INVALIDED OFFICERS—Question, Mr. Bainbridge; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 20

THE SURRENDER OF GENERAL PRINSLOO'S FORCE—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 20

LEGAL ADVISER TO MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 20

INVALIDED SOLDIERS IN THE HOME DISTRICT—Question, Dr. Tanner; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 21

SALISBURY MANŒUVRES—ENTERIC FEVER—Question, Dr. Tanner; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 21

WAR OFFICE CLERK AS COMPANY PROMOTER — Question, Mr. Hazell (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 22

VOLUNTEERS AND RIFLE CLUBS IN IRELAND — Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 22

KILBRIDE RIFLE RANGE, WICKLOW — Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 23

MILITARY AFFRAY AT SPIKE ISLAND—Question, Dr. Tanner; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 23

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL BOILERS—Questions, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) and Mr. Wolff (Belfast, E.); Answers, The First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square) 24

BELLEVILLE AND CYLINDRICAL BOILERS — COMPARATIVE COAL CONSUMPTION—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. Goschen 24

NAVAL MEDICAL OFFICERS—Question, Dr. Tanner; Answer, Mr. Goschen ... 25

ROUMANIA—PERSECUTION OF JEWS—Question, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 25

THAMES AND SEVERN CANAL — Question, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) ... 26

VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART—Question, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answer, The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 27

CONTROL OF EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS—TRANSFER TO THE EDUCATION BOARD—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, Sir J. Gorst ... 27

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD—HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 28

POSTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS—Question, Mr. Bainbridge; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 28

SOUTHAMPTON CUSTOMS HOUSE—Question, Sir Barrington Simeon (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 29

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KILMORE PIER (WEXFORD) BREAKWATER—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Kerry, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 29

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION—MANUSCRIPTS OF THE IRISH FRANCISCANS—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour ... 30

ADMINISTRATION OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT IN IRELAND—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 30

DERRY AND DONEGAL STEAMERS—SUBSIDY TO MR. HERDMAN—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 31

SPIDDAL FAIR—Question, Mr. Carew (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 31

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE—TALLOW BRANCH—Questions, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.), Capt. Donelan (Cork, E.), and Dr. Tanner; Answers, Mr. G. W Balfour 32

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—LODGING ALLOWANCES—Question, Mr. Maurice Healy (Cork); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 32

R. I. C. DEPOT—OFFICE OF BARRACK MASTER—Question, Mr. Maurice Healy; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 33

LAND ACT RETURNS—Question, Mr. Maurice Healy; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 33

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS—RETIREMENT REGULATIONS—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 33

COUNTESS OF LEITRIM'S ESTATE—CASE OF MICHAEL HOLOHAN—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 34

CORK INLAND REVENUE OFFICES—Question, Mr. Maurice Healy; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 35

CORK POST OFFICE—Question, Dr. Tanner; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 35

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) and Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 35

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and others) Bill—Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered and agreed to ... 37

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill and Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill, with Amendments 37

Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 316] 37

Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 317] 37

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WAYS AND MEANS—Order for Committee read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

INTERCEPTION OF PUBLIC REVENUE.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the question, in order to add the words, 'this House cannot be the effectual guardian of the revenues of the State unless the whole amount of the taxes and duties and of all other receipts received for the public account be paid into the Exchequer,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Malcolm (*Suffolk, Stowmarket*) 47
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.*) 47

Question put and agreed to.

Main Question put and agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Motion made and Question proposed—

"1. That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one, sums not exceeding thirteen million pounds may be raised (in addition to any sums already authorised to be raised in the present session) by all or any of the following nethods—

(a) by means of the issue of further war stock or war bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(b) by means of the issue of Treasury bills; or

(c) by means of the issue of Exchequer bonds;

and that the principal and interest on any money so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

"2. That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

DISCUSSION:—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) ... 58
Mr. Lloyd George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 58
Sir M. Hicks-Beach 58
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) ... 59
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S.W.*) 59

Resolution to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again upon Wednesday.

Companies Bill—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 8, line 3, after the word 'contract,' to insert the words, 'in writing.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

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Question proposed, "That the words 'in writing' be there inserted."

The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 60

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 3, after the word 'contract,' to insert the words, 'made by, or on behalf of, or intended to be adopted by the company.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'five,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'two' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

The Solicitor General (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) 61
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 61
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 62
The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 62
Mr. Hedderwick (*Wick Burghs*) 63
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) ... 63
Sir Robert Finlay 64
Mr. Sydney Gedge (*Walsall*) ... 65

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'three' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 2, after the word 'expenses,' to insert the words 'and the requirments contained in this section, Subsection (1), paragraphs (*e*) and (*h*).'"—*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Ritchie 66

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 9, to leave out the words 'one year,' and insert the words 'three years,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one year' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Ritchie 67
Sir Robert Reid 68
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*)... ... 69

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 9, to leave out the words 'one year' and insert the words 'two years.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out Subsection (5) of Clause 12."—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Ritchie 70

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, after the word 'void,' to insert the words 'nor shall any condition purporting to relieve a director from the obligations imposed upon him in his capacity as a director, or as an officer of or trustee for the company, under the general law be valid unless the same be approved by the court or a judge as fair and reasonable.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay ... ... 72 *Mr. Ritchie* 73
Sir Robert Reid 73

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, after the word 'void,' to insert the words—'(7) Where any such prospectus as is mentioned in this section is published as a newspaper advertisement it shall be sufficient to publish it in an abridged form, with a reference to a full prospectus complying with the terms of this section, specifying a convenient place where the full prospectus can be inspected and obtained.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words 'and the provisions of this section shall not apply to such abridged prospectus.'"—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Ritchie 74

Question put, and negatived.

Main Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Albert Rollit ... ... 75 *Sir Henry Fowler* (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 76
Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) 75 *Sir Robert Finlay* 77

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'provided that none of the matters required to be disclosed by this section are abridged in such advertisement.'"—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Ritchie ... ... 79 *Mr. Gibson Bowles* (*Lynn Regis*) 79
Mr. Sydney Gedge ... ... 79 *Mr. Lawson Walton* (*Leeds, S.*) 80

Amendment to Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

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DISCUSSION—

Mr. H. S. Foster (Suffolk, Lowestoft) 82
Major Jameson (Clare, E.) 83
Mr. Bond (Nottingham, E.) 84
Mr. Maurice Healy (Cork) ... 85
Mr. Bryce 86
Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield) 86

Main question put, "That the words '(7) Where any such prospectus as is mentioned in this section is published as a newspaper advertisement it shall be sufficient to publish it in an abridged form, with a reference to a full prospectus complying with the terms of this section, specifying a convenient place where the full prospectus can be inspected and obtained,' be there inserted."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 102 ; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 247.)

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, at end, to insert '(6) In the event of non-compliance with any of the requirements of this section a director or other person responsible for the prospectus shall not incur any liability by reason of the non-compliance, if he proves that (*a*) as regards any matter not disclosed, he was not cognisant thereof, and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered it; or (*b*) the non-compliance arose from an honest mistake of fact on his part.' "—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge*).

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Mr. Ritchie 89

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 18, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'and every person who is made liable to pay damages in respect of any infringement of the provisions of this section shall be entitled to contribution as in cases of contract from every other person who, if sued separately, would be liable to pay such damages.' "—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 90
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 90

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 42 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 248.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 18, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'This section shall not apply to a company registered before this Act comes into operation.' "—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Ritchie 93
Mr. Bond 93

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 20, to leave out the word 'a,' and insert the words 'any material,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'a' stand part of the Bill."

Question put and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 20, after the word 'prospectus,' to insert the words 'unless such variation shall be in favour of the company.' "—(*Mr. H. S. Foster*).

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Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 94

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 31, to leave out the words 'not less than two directors,' and insert the words 'the auditor or auditors,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

Other Amendments made—

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 8, after the word 'approval,' to insert the words—'(*f*) An account furnished by the vendors within the meaning of Section 12 (2) or not, setting out the sums in cash and shares expended by them in the formation of the company, with particulars of the items and objects of such expenditure.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION—

Sir Robert Finlay 98
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 99
Sir Albert Rollit 100
Mr. Bryce 101
Mr. Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 102
Mr. Bousfield 102
Mr. Alexander Cross (*Glasgow, Camlachie*) 103
Mr. Louis Sinclair (*Essex, Romford*) 103
Mr. H. C. Richards (*Finsbury, E.*) 104

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 249.)

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 38, to leave out from the word 'company' to the word 'secured,' in page 12, line 3, inclusive, and insert the words 'be registered in manner required by this Act within twenty-one days after the date of its creation.'"—(*Mr Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'registered,' in line 41, stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Ritchie 107
Mr. Moulton (*Cornwall, Launceston*) 109
Mr. Louis Sinclair ... 109
Sir Francis Evans (*Southampton*) 110
Sir Albert Rollit 110
Mr. Bryn Roberts (*Carnarvonshire, Eifion*) 111
Mr. H. S. Foster 111
Mr. Bousfield 113
Mr. Bond 113
Mr. Sydney Gedge 114

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 150; Noes, 29. (Division List No. 250.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 41, to leave out the word 'registered' and insert the words 'filed with the registrar for registration.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 1, to leave out the words 'seven days,' and insert the words 'three months.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'seven days' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Ritchie 116
Mr. Moulton 116
Sir Francis Evans 117
Sir Henry Fowler 117

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 1, to leave out the words 'seven days' and insert the words 'twenty-one days.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'so far as that property is concerned.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 36, after the word 'secured' to insert the words 'shall be conclusive evidence of the requirements of this section as to registration having been complied with.'"—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Francis Evans 118
Sir Robert Finlay 118

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 5, to leave out Sub-section 8."—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Sir Francis Evans 119
Mr. Labouchere 119
Mr. Lawson Walton ... 120
Mr. Bryce 120
Mr. Bryn Roberts 121

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 18, after the word 'company' to insert the words, 'provided that where a series of debentures containing any charge to the benefit of which the debenture holders of that series are entitled *pari passu* is created by a company, it shall be sufficient for the company to keep an entry of the following particulars --(a) the total amount secured by the whole series; (b) the dates of the resolutions creating the series and of the covering deed, if any, by which the security is created or defined; (c) a general description of the property charged; and (d) the names of the trustees for the debenture holders.'"—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

Sir Robert Finlay 121

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 18, after the word 'company,' to insert the words, 'provided that in the case of a series of uniform debentures a copy of one such debenture shall be sufficient.'"—(*Mr Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

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Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 19, to leave out from the word 'court' to the word 'may' in line 25."—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay... 122

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 25, after 'company,' to insert 'or that on other grounds it is just and equitable to grant relief."—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 40, to leave out from the word 'company' to the word 'pounds,' in page 14, line 4, inclusive, and insert the words 'the company, and every director, manager, and other officer of the company who knowingly and wilfully authorised or permitted such default shall, without prejudice to any other liability, be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds; and if any person knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the delivery of any debenture or certificate of debenture stock required by this Act to be registered, without a copy of the certificate of the registrar being indorsed upon it, he shall, without prejudice to any other liability, be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'responsible,' in page 14, line 2, stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Remaining words omitted.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'wilfully,' to insert the words 'or negligently.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay ... ... 124 *Mr. Labouchere* 124
Mr. Moulton ... ... 124 *Sir Francis Evans* 125

Question put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 22, after the word 'meeting,' to insert the words 'a copy of such report and balance-sheet shall be sent to every registered holder of debentures or debenture stock within seven days after such general meeting.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Sir Robert Finlay 125

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 24, to leave out Clause 26."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 127

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"To omit first part of Clause down to line 27."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"To insert before line 28 the words, 'The provisions of Section 2 of the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1870.' "—(*Mr Bryce.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 34, to leave out Clause 28."—(*Mr Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay 128
Mr. Bryce 129
Mr. Moulton 130
Sir Edward Carson ... 130
Mr. Sydney Gedge 130
Mr. Bond 130
Mr. Ritchie 130
Mr. Lawson Walton 130

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 1, to leave out Clause 29."—(*Sir Seymour King.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the second word 'of,' in line 1, stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Banbury 133
Mr. Moulton 133
Mr. Ritchie 134
Sir Francis Evans 135
Mr. Banbury 136

Question put, and agreed to.

Remaining words omitted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 8, to leave out the word 'passing,' and insert the word 'commencement.' "—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 10, after the second word 'any,' to insert the word 'prospectus.' "—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'prospectus' be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 137

Question put, and negatived.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 13, after the word 'false,' to insert the words 'or wilfully suppresses any material particular therein, or any statement which he is hereby required to make.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Edward Carson ... 138 *Mr. Bryce* 138

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 23 ; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 251.)

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 38, to leave out from the word 'means' to the word 'company' inclusive, in page 18, line 2, and insert the words 'a copy of the document filed or to be filed with the registrar in pursuance of Section 11,' instead thereof.'" —(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'any prospectus, notice, circular,' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay ... ... 139 *Mr. Sydney Gedge* 139

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 39, after the word 'circular,' to insert the words 'or any.'"—(*Mr Tomlinson.*)

Sir Robert Finlay 140

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT.—Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Ritchie*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Two of the clock.

LORDS : TUESDAY, 31ST JULY, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Rochdale Corporation Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 141

London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—M. Bath ; E. Camperdown (chairman) ; L. Colchester ; L. Fermanagh (*E. Erne*) ; L. Harlech; agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill 141

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Dublin Corporation Bill; Clontarf Urban District Council Bill—Moved, That the Order made on the 12th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 26th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bills read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next 141

Saint David's Railway (Abandonment) Bill—Read 3^a, and passed ... 141

Devonport Corporation Bill; Hastings Corporation Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 141

Scarborough Corporation Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 141

Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill; Mid-Kent Water Bill; Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill; Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 142

Metropolitan District Railway Bill—The Queen's consent signified; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 142

Coventry Corporation Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 142

Taunton Corporation Bill; Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies Bill, now Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter) Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 142

South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 142

Tottenham Urban District Council Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons... 142

Southport Corporation Bill—Moved, That Standing Order No. 144 be considered and dispensed with in respect of the said Bill; agreed to. Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed and returned to the Commons 142

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to ... 142

Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways Bill; East London Water Bill; Ilfracombe Improvement Bill; London and North Western Railway (Wales) Bill; London and North Western Railway Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 143

Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Bill [H.L]; Ipswich Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Withington Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 143

Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ... 143

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London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 143

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 143

Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill. Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next 143

Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation Bill; Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Casses) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order Bill. Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 143

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to 144

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Murray*) 144

The alterations in the Standing Orders were agreed to; Standing Orders amended accordingly; and to be printed as amended. (No. 213.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1899–1900 144

PRISONS (IRELAND)—Twenty-second Report of the General Prisons Board, Ireland, 1899–1900 144

IRISH LAND COMMISSION—Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900 144

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (IRELAND)—Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General, for the year 1899 144

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (SCOTLAND)—Forty-fourth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1898). Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 145

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS 1882 TO 1900—Rules made by the Board of Trade in pursuance of Section 5 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882 145

NAVY (PRIZE MONEY)—Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between the 1st April, 1899, and 31st March, 1900. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 145

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY—Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to convey to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learned the assassination of Her Majesty's ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present King, on the part of this House, their abhorrence of the crime, and their sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy and with the Government and people of that country."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

The Earl of Kimberley 147

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On Question, agreed to, *nemine dissentiente*.

Ordered, That the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—YEOMANRY PRISONERS—Question, The Earl of Erne; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (The Marquess of Lansdowne) ... 149

POST OFFICE—HOLIDAYS—Question, The Earl of Aberdeen; Answer, The Postmaster General (The Marquess of Londonderry) 150

Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and Others) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 152

Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 152

Executors (Scotland) Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendment made in Committee of the whole House to be received on Thursday next 152

Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next 152

Agricultural Holdings Bill—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with. Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 212) 152

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 153

Post Office Sites Bill—House in Committee (according to Order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with... 153

Oil in Tobacco Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed and returned to the Commons 153

Customs Duties (Isle of Man) Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 153

DELIVERY TO PEERS OF NOTICES AND PAPERS.

The Earl of Kimberley 153

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

The Earl WALDEGRAVE chosen Speaker in the absence of the Lord Chancellor and the Lords Commissioners.

Companies Bill—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next; and Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. to be considered in order to their being dispensed with.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 214).... 153

Elementary Education Bill—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next.—(*The Lord President* [D. Devonshire.]) (No. 215) 154

Naval Reserve Bill—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 216) 154

Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill (No. 217); Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill (No. 218)—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Earl of Denbigh*) 154

House adjourned at a quarter past Ten of the clock.

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 31ST JULY, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bradford Corporation Bill; Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Bill; City of London (Various Powers) Bill; Croydon Tramways and Improvements Bill; Cumberland County Council (Bridges) Bill; Halifax Corporation Bill; Oldham Corporation Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 154

Morley Corporation Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 154

Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed. Ordered, That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 217, 242, 223, and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) Verbal Amendments made. Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 155

Margate Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order)—Ordered, That, in the case of the Margate Corporation Bill (Lords) Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 155

PRIVATE BILLS—Ordered, That Standing Orders 220 and 246, relating to Private Bills, be suspended for the remainder of the session.

Ordered, That as regards Private Bills already returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments be now considered.

Ordered, That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments to be considered forthwith.

Ordered, That when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*) 155

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Aberdeen Police Improvement Bill; Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply Bill; Exeter Corporation Bill; Farnworth Urban District Council Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Lancaster Corporation Bill; Liverpool Corporation Bill; London County Tramways (No. 2) Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill; South Lancashire Tramways Bill; Wandsworth and Putney Gas Bill; West Bromwich Corporation Bill; West Ham Corporation Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to, in pursuance of the Order of the House of this day 155

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 156

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 156

Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 156

Fraser Settled Chattels Bill [Lords]—Reported without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time 156

Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 156

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 156

Message from the Lords—That they have agreed to -Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill without Amendment. That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill, with Amendments. That they have agreed to Amendments to—Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords], without Amendment 156

PETITIONS.

Factories and Workshops Bill—Petition from Nottingham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 157

Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland) Bill—Petition from Kinning Park, in favour; to lie upon the Table 157

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Wigan; and Pwllheli; to lie upon the Table 157

Soldiers and Sailors on Active Service—Petition of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 157

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Board of Education—Copy presented, of Statement in explanation of draft of an order in Council for transferring to and making exercisable by the Board of Education certain powers of the Charity Commissioners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 157

Local Government Board—Copy presented, of Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 157

Metropolitan Water Companies (Accounts)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd May; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 308] 157

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IRISH LAND COMMISSION—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 158

PRISONS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Twenty-second Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) for 1899-1900, with an Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 158

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General, being for the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 158

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WAGES) (IRELAND)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table 158

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY—Account presented, showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between the 1st April, 1898, and 31st March, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 309] 158

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND)—Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 158

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th July; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table 158

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1890 (RULES)—Copy presented, of Rules made by the Board of Trade in pursuance of Section 5 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 158

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 17—Return ordered, "of Motions for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during Session II. of 1899 and the Session of 1900 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper, No. 324, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 158

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER NO. 25)—Return ordered, "respecting application of Standing Order No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session II. of 1899 and the Session of 1900, under the following heads:—

1. Date when Closure moved.	2. By whom moved.	3. Question before House or Committee when moved.	4. Whether in House or Committee.	5. Whether assent given to Motion, or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	6. Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	7. Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 325, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 159

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DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE—Return ordered, "of the Number of Divisions of the House in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900; stating the subject of the Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included; also the aggregate number in the House on each Division; distinguishing the Divisions on Public Business from Private; and also the number of Divisions before and after midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.278, of Session I. of 1899."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 159

PUBLIC BILLS—Return ordered, "of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1900; showing the number which received the Royal Assent; the number which were passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the number passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.274, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) ... 159

PUBLIC PETITIONS—Return ordered, "of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.275, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 160

SELECT COMMITTEES—Return ordered, "of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1900, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of Inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.276, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 160

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE—Return ordered, "of the number of days on which the House sat in Session II. of 1899, and in the Session of 1900, stating for each day the date of the month and day of the week, the hour of meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.277, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 160

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS)—Return ordered, "showing, with reference to Session II. of 1889 and the Session of 1900, (1) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had precedence; (2) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had precedence; (4) the number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence under a special order of House; (5) the number of Saturday Sittings; (6) the total number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days on which Business of Supply was considered (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 326, of Session I. of 1899."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 161

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PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS—Returns ordered, "of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1900, classed according to the following subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvements; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations etc. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; and Miscellaneous. Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in the Session of 1900 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed. Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1900, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee, the number of days on which each Committee sat, and the number of days on which each Member attended; and of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.273, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 161

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CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK — ADVANCE OF THE ALLIES ON PEKING — Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 162

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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—EXPENDITURE TO DATE—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.) 163

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SLIGO POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. P. A. M'Hugh (Leitrim, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 178

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IRISH RAILWAY AMALGAMATION BILLS—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien : Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 180

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Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to 181

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Oil in Tobacco Bill, with an Amendment ; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, with Amendments . 181

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 319] 181

ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY—

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 181

Sir H. Campbell - Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 182

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to convey to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learned the assassination of Her Majesty's ally, His Majesty the King of Italy, and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present King, on the part of her faithful Commons, their abhorrence of the crime, and their sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy, and with the Government and people of that country.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of Her Majesty's Household.

WAYS AND MEANS [30TH JULY].

Resolution reported:—"1. That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one, sums not exceeding thirteen million pounds may be raised (in addition to any sums already authorised to be raised in the present session) by all or any of the following methods—(a) by means of the issue of further war stock or war bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or (b) by means of the issue of Treasury bills; or (c) by means of the issue of Exchequer bonds; and that the principal of and interest on any money so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

"2. That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury 184

Supplemental War Loan Bill—"To provide for raising a Supplemental Loan for the service of the year ending the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 318] 184

Elementary Education Bill—[THIRD READING]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the words, 'now read the third time,' and add the words 're-committed in respect of Clauses 1 and 2.'"—(*Mr. Mendl.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'now read the third time' stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 187
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) ... 188
The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (*Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University*) ... 189
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 191
Mr. Sydney Gedge (*Walsall*) ... 193
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) ... 194
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) ... 195
Mr. Talbot (*Oxford University*) ... 196
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 198
Mr. Drage (*Derby*) 198
Mr. Ellis J. Griffith (*Anglesey*) ... 199

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 90. (Division List No. 252.)

Main Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Ellis J. Griffith ... 201
Sir J. Gorst 201
Mr. Herbert Lewis (*Flint Borough*) 201

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

Companies Bill—[THIRD READING]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Sydney Gedge 203
Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.) 205
Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford) 207
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 208
Mr. Marks (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) 213
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) ... 215
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 217
Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) 221
The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) ... 222

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Naval Reserve Bill—[THIRD READING]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 223

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill—As amended, considered.

A Clause (Composition of Board)—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Maurice Healy (Cork) 226
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 226

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time, and added.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 8, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words 'on the condition and.' "—(*Mr Maurice Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived,

Amendments made.

Bill read the third time, and passed 227

Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Maurice Healy ... 227
The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 227

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

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Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [Lords]—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 228
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 230
Colonel Blundell (*Lancashire, Ince*) 232
Sir Robert Finlay 232

Question put, and agreed to

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Volunteers Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'emergency,' to insert the words, 'Provided always, that whenever Her Majesty directs the calling out of the Volunteer forces for actual military service, if Parliament be then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of Parliament within ten days, and Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed of such proclamation, and shall continue to sit and act in like manner as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day."—(*Mr. C. P. Scott.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) ... 235
The Under Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 235
Mr. Caldwell 237
Mr. Tomlinson (*Preston*) ... 238
Mr. Channing 238
Mr. Jonathan Samuel (*Stockton*) 239
Capt. Sinclair (*Forfarshire*) ... 240

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 58; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 253.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'emergency,' to insert the words 'provided always that nothing in this section shall apply without his consent to a man enrolled in any corps of Volunteers at the passing of this Act."—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Wyndham 243
Mr. C. P. Scott (*Lancashire, Leigh*) 243

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'for the purposes of coast defence."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 243

Amendment agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

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Military Lands Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Mr. Wyndham ... ... 244 *Mr. Maurice Healy* 245
Mr. Jonathan Samuel ... 244

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 negatived.

Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

Question proposed, "That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and the powers and provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, are being used for the purpose, the amount of compensation shall in all cases be settled by a jury in like manner as in the said last mentioned Act provided."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham ... ... 246 *Mr. Maurice Healy* 247

Question put, and negatived.

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes, either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and also where any legal proceedings are taken in connection with or arising out of such proceedings, the Secretary of State or other person or authority acquiring the land or taking such proceedings shall be subject to the same liability to pay costs in connection with such proceedings as any person or authority acquiring lands under the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts relating to the purchase and taking of lands otherwise than by agreement."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham ... ... 250 *Mr. Maurice Healy* 251

Question put, and negatived.

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes, either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and the powers and provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, are being used for the purpose, neither of the justices determining the compensation pursuant to the 121st Section of the last-mentioned Act shall be a resident magistrate appointed in pursuance of the Constabulary (Ireland) Act, 1836."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 252

Question put, and negatived.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 252

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*)... ... 254

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 125 ; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 254.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Public Works Loans Bill—As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill read the third time and passed 255

Money-Lending Bill [Lords]—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

New clause—

> "No company limited by shares, and registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1898, shall carry on the business of a money-lender."—(*Mr. Marks.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Sir Robert Finlay 258

Question put, and negatived.

New clause—

> "Should the borrower be unable to repay the principal of the loan and the interest agreed upon at the specified date, and come to the money-lender for a renewal of the loan, the money-lender shall not be allowed to charge a higher rate of interest upon renewal than the rate agreed upon when the loan was first made."—(*Mr. Beckett.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Sir Robert Finlay 260

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

> "In Clause 1, page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out 'this Act comes into operation,' and insert 'the commencement of this Act.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 14, to leave out the words 'the transaction is harsh and unconscionable,' and insert the words, '(*a*) the loan was induced by fraud or deceit ; or (*b*) the borrower had not full knowledge and comprehension of the terms of the loan and of all facts material to the transaction ; or (*c*) the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender effecting the said loan secretly, or was desirous of concealing the same or the circumstances connected therewith from some person ; or (*d*) the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender by reason of age, inexperience, ignorance of business, or mental, physical, or moral infirmity, acting at a disadvantage in negotiating the said ... loan,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay 264
Mr. Labouchere 266
Mr. Sydney Gedge 266
Mr. H. S. Foster (Suffolk, Lowestoft) 267

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 255.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after the word 'unconscionable,' to insert the words 'and was entered into under circumstances in which the courts of equity would give relief.' "—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. H. S. Foster 271
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) 271

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, after the word 'any,' to insert the word 'such.' "—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'such' be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'it,' to insert the words, 'subject to any other sum which the Court may find due from the debtor, and which sum shall be allowed as a set-off.' "—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. T. W. Russell 272
Mr. Sydney Gedge 272
Mr. Tomlinson 273

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 5 ; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 256.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'lent,' to insert the words 'Provided that nothing in this section shall authorise the reopening of any statement, settlement of account, or any agreement unless within two years of the date of the transaction complained of.' "—(*Mr. Lawrence.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 274

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after 'lent,' to insert, 'And the court shall have power, notwithstanding any provision or agreement to the contrary, to entertain any application under this Act by the borrower or surety or other person liable, notwithstanding that the time for repayment of the loan, or any instalment thereof, may not have arrived.' "—(*Mr. Warr.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 275

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Question put, and agreed to.

A formal Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'notice,' to insert the words, '(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Acts or Rules or Order in Council regulating the proceedings on appeal from inferior courts, any party aggrieved by the judgment, direction, decision, or order of the judge of any inferior court in England or Wales before whom proceedings are taken under this section may appeal from the same to a divisional court, subject to such conditions as may from time to time be provided by rules of the Supreme Court; provided that, unless by special leave of the said judge, there shall be no appeal unless the amount claimed by the money-lender in respect of which the proceedings are taken shall exceed the sum of twenty pounds; provided also that if on the hearing of the appeal it shall appear to the divisional court that a new trial ought to be had, it shall be lawful for the said court, if it shall think fit, to order that the verdict and judgment shall be set aside, and that a new trial shall be had."—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Robert Finlay	277	*Mr. Sydney Gedge*	279
Mr. Beckett (*Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby*)...	277	*Sir William Anson*	279
Mr. Labouchere	278	*Mr. H. S. Foster*	279
		Dr. Tanner (*Cork County, Mid*)...	280

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 12; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 257.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, after line 17, to add 'In the application of this Act to Scotland this section shall read as if the words " or otherwise any court of equity would give relief" were omitted therefrom.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

The Lord Advocate (*Mr. A. Graham Murray, Bute-shire*)	283	*Mr. Sydney George*	283

Question put and agreed to.

Sir William Anson	284

Motion made, and Question put, "That further proceedings on consideration, as amended, be adjourned."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 19; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 258.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words 'Sub-section (1) (*a*) of.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay	285

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Question put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 19, after the word 'therefor,' to insert the words 'and such regulations shall be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 286

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out the words 'or promise.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or promise' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION—

Sir Robert Finlay 287
Mr. Maurice Healy ... 287
Mr. Moss (*Denbighshire, E.*)... 287

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 31, after the word 'borrowed,' to insert the words 'or if any person by any false, misleading, or deceptive statement, representation, or promise, or by any dishonest concealment of facts induces, or attempts to induce, any money-lender, or any manager, agent, or clerk of the money-lender, to lend money to him or to any other person.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION—

Sir Robert Finlay 288
Mr. Moss 288
Mr. Beckett 289

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 34, after the word 'both,' to insert the words, 'Provided that a court shall not convict under this section unless the statement, representation, promise, or concealment be contained in some written document, or be proved by evidence other than that of the borrower, intending borrower, or sureties (if any).'"—(*Mr. Beckett.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 289

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 5."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

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Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 290

Question put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1898–9—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed —"That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(*a*.) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8*s*. 3*d*., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6*s*. 6*d*., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18*s*. 3*d*.

(*b*.) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13*s*. 5*d*., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3*s*. 3*d*., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 9*s*. 10*d*.

(*c*.) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Total Surpluses	825,325	12	7
Total Deficits	577,801	4	6
Net Surplus	£247,524	8	1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

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1. That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. *d.*	£ s. *d.*	£ s. *d.*	£ s. *d.*
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines ...	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy ...	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12 11
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services .	...	551 11 11	...	636 9 6
4 ...	Martial Law	719 3 2		...	40 8 4
5 ...	Educational Services .	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11 9
6 ...	Scientific Services ...	2,897 18 0	...	...	5,423 0 7
7 ...	Royal Naval Reserves	...	13,683 11 1	...	188 13 1
8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :				
Sec. 1 ...	Personnel	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
Sec. 2 ...	Matériel	192,715 5 7	...	...	43,268 14 0
Sec. 3 ...	Contract Work ...	...	749,758 9 6	2,053 13 10	
9 ...	Naval Armaments ...	...	8,525 13 6	73 15 11	
10 ...	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad	91,241 9 9	...	...	10,752 7 3
11 ...	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	32,862 19 2	...	...	1,553 16 2
12 ...	Admiralty Office ...	500 5 8	...	...	1 17 9
13 ...	Half-pay, Reserved and Retired Pay ...	18,169 4 5	...	954 1 6	
14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3
		Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3		Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10	

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £247,524 8 1

That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present session), and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £268,594 1*s.* 9*d.*, as shown

July 31.]

in Column No. 1 of Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £100,615 14*s.* 2*d.*, as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £167,978 7*s.* 7*d.*

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £48,828 14*s.* 6*d.*, as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £226,126 0*s.* 9*d.*, as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £177,297 6*s.* 3*d.*

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total Surpluses	278,806	12	5
Total Deficits	269,487	13	9
Net Surplus	£9,318	18	8

That by a Vote of Parliament during the present session (House of Commons Paper, No. 90, of 1900) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1898–9, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £168,070 2*s.* 6*d.*

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, etc., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	29,358 10 11	...	...	100,529 17 8
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... ...	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99, Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48,384 14 2	
11	Establishments for Military Education	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc.	...	4,412 6 8	...	3,915 16 1
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	210 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote	...	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		
		Net Deficit, 167,878 7 7		Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3	
		Net Surplus £9,418 18 8			

—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Jonathan Samuel.*)

DISCUSSION:—

Dr. Tanner 297
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Hanbury, Preston*) 297
Mr. Tully 297
Mr. Jonathan Samuel 298
Mr. A. J. Balfour 299
Mr. Crilly (*Mayo, N.*) 299
Mr. Caldwell 300
Mr. J. Balfour 300

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT—Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Sir William Walrond*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Three of the clock.

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords]. (By Order)—Ordered, That, in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords], Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 223 and 243, be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords]. (By Order)—Ordered, That, in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords], Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time."—*Mr. Caldwell.*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—*Mr. Lonsdale.*"

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the question."

DISCUSSION—

Sir Harry Bullard (Norwich) 305
Mr. Pierpoint (Warrington) 305
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 306
Major Jameson (Clare W.) 307
Mr. Hazell (Leicester) ... 308
Mr. Usborne (Essex, Chelmsford) 309
Sir R. Penrose-Fitzgerald (Cambridge) 310
Sir Harry Bullard 310
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) 311

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 117; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 259.)

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Patrick O'Brien ... 313
Mr. Maurice Healy (Cork) 316
The Chairman of Committees (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland Penrith) 316

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 112 ; Noes, 33. (Division List No. 260.)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation Bill—Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to 317

Caledonian Railway Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 319

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], Standing Order 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill, as amended, accordingly considered. An Amendment made. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Queen's consent signified ; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 319

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 319

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 319

PETITIONS.

Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill—Petition from Clydebank, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 319

Prevention of Corruption Bill—Petition from St. Pancras, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 319

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATAL CORRESPONDENCE—Return [presented 24th July] to be printed. [No. 310] 319

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—Return [presented 31st July] to be printed. No. 311] 320

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WAGES) (IRELAND)—Return [presented 31st July] to be printed. [No. 312] 320

EVICTIONS (IRELAND) —Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June, 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 320

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD —Copy presented, of Supplement of the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board 1899–1900, containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1899–1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 320

TREATY SERIES (NO. 16, 1900)—Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and Siam relative to the Registration of British Subjects in Siam. Signed at Bangkok, 29th November, 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 320

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TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2489 and 2493 to 2496 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 320

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS—Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read.
Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 313] 320

Supplemental War Loan Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the second time."

Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 320
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 341

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, to leave out lines 25 and 26."—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 354
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 357
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) ... 358
Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) 359
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 361

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 136; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 261.)

Bill reported without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1, agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Mr. Tully 363

Clause agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, after 'reduced,' to insert the following sub-section :—(3) Sub-section (4) of the said Section 54, as amended and extended by this section, shall continue to have effect until the tenancy of the person therein referred to is determined, notwithstanding that the existing tenancy of the occupier may have previously determined.—(*Mr Maurice Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. G. W. Balfour 365

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.
Clause 5 :—
Sir James Haslett (Belfast, N.) 365
The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N) 365
Clause agreed to.
Clause 7 :—
Mr. Tully 365
Mr. G. W. Balfour 366
Clause agreed to.
Clauses 8, 9, and 10 agreed to.
Clause 11 :—
Amendment proposed—
"In page 4, line 3, to leave out the word 'seven' and insert the word 'five.' "—(*Mr. Tully*)
Mr. G. W. Balfour 366
Amendment negatived.
Amendment proposed—
"In page 4, line 4, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'county council and.' "—(*Mr. Tully.*)
Mr. G. W. Balfour 367
Amendment negatived.
Clauses 11 and 12 agreed to.
Bill reported without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill—Considered in Committee.
[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]
Clause 1 :—
Amendment proposed—
"In page 1, line 5, to leave out 'if they think fit.' "—(*Dr. Tanner.*)
DISCUSSION :—
Mr. Atkinson 367
Dr. Tanner 368
Mr. Tully 368
Capt. Donelan 368
Mr. G. W. Balfour ... 368
Mr. T. P. O'Connor 368
Amendment negatived.
Clause agreed to.
Remaining clauses agreed to.
Bill reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.
[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]
Clause 1 :—
Amendment proposed—
"In page 1, line 6, after 'exportation of' to insert 'all or any of the following articles—namely.' "—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Further Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, to leave out 'and.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 7, after 'naval stores' to insert 'and any article which Her Majesty shall judge capable of being converted into, or made useful in increasing the quantity of arms, ammunition, or military or naval stores.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 369
Mr. William Abraham (*Glamorganshire, Rhodda*) 369
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.* 370
Mr. Fenwick (*Northumberland, Wansbeck*)... ... 370
Sir James Joicey (*Durham, Chester-le-Street*)... ... 371
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 372
Mr. Paulton (*Durham, Bishop Auckland*) 372
The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) ... 373
Mr. Fenwick 373
Mr. Louis Sinclair (*Essex, Romford*) 374
Mr. Pickard (*Yorkshire, W.R., Normanton*) 374
Sir John Colomb (*Gt. Yarmouth*) 375
Mr. Bryn Roberts (*Carnarvonshire, Eifion*) 375
Sir James Joicey 376

Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1898–9—Considered in Committee.

That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8*s.* 3*d.*, as shown in column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended, while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6*s.* 6*d.*, as shown in column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18*s.* 3*d.*

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13*s.* 5*d.*, as shown in column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3*s.* 3*d.*, as shown in column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 9*s.* 10*d.*

August 1.]

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£ s. d.
Total Surpluses	825,325 12 7
Total Deficits	577,801 4 6
Net Surplus	£247,524 8 1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Naval Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12 11
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services	...	551 11 11	...	636 9 6
4 ...	Martial Law	719 3 2	...	...	40 8 4
5 ...	Educational Services	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11 9
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8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.:				
Sec. 1...	Personnel	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
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14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3
		Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3		Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10	
		Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ...			£247,524 8 1

That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present Session), and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

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August 1.]

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
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2	Medical Establishments: Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... .	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48,384 14 2	
11	Establishments for Military Education... ...	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges...	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc....	...	4,412 6 8	..	3,915 16 1
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	240 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote... ...	...	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		
		Net Deficit, £167,878 7 7		Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3	
		Net Surplus £9,418 18 8			

—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

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Oil in Tobacco Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 383

Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man) Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed 383

Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey) Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed 383

Imitation of County Court Process Bill [Lords]—Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 383

Ancient Monuments Protection Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 383

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow 384

Medical Acts Amendment Bill—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 384

Members of Local Authorities Relief Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow 384

Copyright Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn... 384

Larceny Act (1861) Amendment Bill—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 384

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes before Eight of the clock.

LORDS: THURSDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to. 385

London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill—Reported from the Select Committee without Amendment... ... 385

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills—Ordered that Standing Orders Nos. 143, 143A, and 144 be suspended for the remainder of the session 385

Clontarf Urban District Council Bill—The Queen's consent signified; Bill read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 385

Dublin Corporation Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 385

Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways Bill; London County Council (Improvements) Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons 385

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North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill; Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill; Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill; London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 385

London United Tramways Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 385

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Alexandra Park Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 386

Rochdale Corporation Bill—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 386

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill; Aberdeen Police and Improvement Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Bradford Corporation Bill; Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Bill; City of London (Various Powers) Bill; Croydon Tramways and Improvements Bill; Cumberland County Council (Bridges) Bill; Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply Bill; Exeter Corporation Bill; Farnworth Urban District Council Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 386

Halifax Corporation Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Lancaster Corporation Bill; Liverpool Corporation Bill; London County Tramways (No. 2) Bill; Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Oldham Corporation Bill; Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill; South Lancashire Tramways Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 386

Wandsworth and Putney Gas Bill; West Bromwich Corporation Bill; West Ham Corporation Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendmedts agreed to 387

Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [H.L.]; Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to ... 387

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments to be considered To-morrow 387

Caledonian Railway Bill [H.L.]; Margate Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 387

Morley Corporation Bill [H.L.]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 387

Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill—Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 387

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LANDS AND HERITAGES (SCOTLAND)—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 26th October last), and to be printed. (No. 221) 387

ARMY (MILITIA)—Regulations for the competitive examination of Militia candidates for commissions in the Army in September next 387

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Statement in explanation of draft of an Order in Council for transferring to and making exercisable by the Board of Education certain powers of the Charity Commissioners 388

TREATY SERIES (No. 16), 1900—Agreement between the United Kingdom and Siam relative to the Registration of British subjects in Siam; signed at Bangkok, 29th November, 1899 388

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—No. 2489, Germany (Bavaria); No. 2493, Bulgaria; No. 2494, France (Martinique); No. 2495, Portugal (Chinde); No. 2496, Italy (Lecce) 388

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—Twenty-ninth Annual Report, 1899–1900. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer, for 1899–1900 388

EVICTIONS (IRELAND)—Return of Evictions in Ireland, for the quarter ending 30th June, 1900 388

TRAMWAYS AND GAS AND WATER ORDERS—Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Tramways Act, 1870, and the Gas and Waterworks Facilities Act, 1870, during the Session of 1900 388

BOILER EXPLOSIONS—Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890; with appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C.—9486]) 388

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894—Return of all British ships ordered by the Board of Trade or its officers, during the period from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1900, to be provisionally detained as unsafe by reason of the defective condition of their hulls, equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 459 of the Act, giving the names of the owners of those ships which have been dismantled, broken up, or converted into hulks, etc.; also of all foreign ships ordered to be provisionally detained during the same period as unsafe by reason of overloading or improper loading, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 462 of the same Act; together with summaries showing respectively the total number of ships ordered to be detained as unsafe, from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1900, and since the 1st October, 1876, distinguishing between those cases in which the ships were found safe or unsafe (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C.—9427]) 388

MERCHANT SEAMEN—Report of a Committee appointed by the Board of Trade on the question of continuous discharge certificates for seamen; with minutes of evidence, appendix, and index 389

STATISTICS—I. Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1885 to 1899. Forty-seventh Number. II. Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1885 to 1899. Thirty-seventh Number 389

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RAILWAYS—General Report to the Board of Trade on the capital, traffic, and expenditure of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1899 389

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR)—Report relating to changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1899; with statistical tables 389

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE—Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1899–1900; with statements respecting the several institutions aided and the experiments conducted 389

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY—Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1899–1900 389

LUNACY (IRELAND)—Forty-ninth Report for 1899 (with appendices), of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland 389

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Part 1: Criminal Statistics for the year 1899 390

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND)—Sixty-eighth Annual Report of Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1900; presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 390

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP)—Ninth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade under Section 29 of the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890 ... 390

BANKRUPTCY—Seventeenth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade: laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 390

DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA—

The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Salisbury) 390

The Earl of Kimberley 391

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to express the deep concern of this House at the great loss which Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Her Majesty the Queen, and to condole with Her Majesty on this melancholy occasion; to assure Her Majesty that this House will ever feel the warmest interest in whatever concerns Her Majesty's domestic relations, and to declare the ardent wishes of this House for the happiness of Her Majesty and Her family."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

On Question, agreed to, *nemine dissentiente.* Ordered that the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

Moved, "That this House do condole with Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, on the great loss which she has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

On Question, agreed to *nemine dissentiente.*

Oil in Tobacco Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 393

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Ancient Monuments Protection Bill; Money-Lending Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed; and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 219) 393

Volunteers Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 220) 393

Post Office Sites Bill; Agricultural Holdings Bill—Amendment reported (according to Order). Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 393

Companies Bill [SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Davey 394

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2ª accordingly. Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith. House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1:—

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 394

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 amended and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 9 agreed to.

Clause 10:—

Amendments moved—

"In page 6, lines 16 and 17, to leave out, 'and the names and addresses of the holders or intended holders'; in lines 18 to 20, to leave out 'with particulars of the control given to such holders in relation to the company's business'; in lines 20 and 21, to leave out, 'their interest,' and to insert 'the interest of the holders'; in page 7, line 7, to leave out from 'company' to end of line 34."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 32, to leave out from 'shall' to end of line 35, and to insert, 'not be necessary to specify the contents of the Memorandum of Association or the signatories thereto, and the number of shares subscribed for by them.'" —(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 10, page 8, lines 41 and 42, to leave out 'and could not with reasonable dilligence have discovered it.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Davey 399

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 amended, and agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 25 agreed to.

Moved, to insert as a new clause—

> "In the winding-up of any company under the Companies Acts all debts owing by the company to its trade creditors, and incurred in the ordinary course of its trading within the period of three months before the date of the winding-up, shall be entitled to the same priority as the debts referred to in Section 2 of the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Amendment Act, 1897, and shall be paid accordingly, but after payment of such last-mentioned debts."—(*Lord Davey.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Lord Macnaghten 401
The Earl of Halsbury ... 401
Lord Davey 402

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 26 :—

Amendment moved—

> "To omit Clause 26."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Davey... 402

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 32 agreed to.

Clause 33 :—

Amendment moved—

> "In page 17, after line 32, to insert 'But nothing in this section shall be construed as extending the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890, to Scotland or Ireland.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 33, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 34 agreed to.

Clause 35 amended, and agreed to.

Remaining Clauses agreed to.

Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 222.)

Executors (Scotland) Bill; Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill—Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow 403

Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill—(SECOND READING)—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Denbigh 403

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Denbigh 404

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man) Bill. (No. 223); Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey) Bill. (No. 224)—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper*) 404

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill. (No. 225); Public Works Loans Bill. (No. 226) –Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 404

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*) (No. 227) 404

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*) (No. 228) 404

IRISH TITHES—PUBLICATION OF PRICES IN THE "DUBLIN GAZETTE"—Question, Viscount Templeton; Answer, The Earl of Denbigh 404

TRAMWAY BILLS—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS—Question, Lord Ribblesdale; Answer, The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley) 405

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered To-morrow, in order to its being suspended for the remainder of the session.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Six of the clock.

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS—

The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) ... 407

Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 408

Amendments to the Standing Orders agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Resolutions, numbered 250 to 257, be Standing Orders of the House.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Ordered, That the Standing Orders, as amended, be printed. [No. 314.]

Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment Bill [Lords.]—Read the third time, and passed, without amendment ... 408

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; Amendments made 408

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments . . 409

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Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords.]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 409

Bournemouth Corporation Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Bournemouth Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 217, 239, and 242 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited. —(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Amendments made.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 409

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Bill, Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation Bill, Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order Bill, Saint David's Railway (Abandonment) Bill, without amendment. Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill, Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, Devonport Corporation Bill, Hastings Corporation Bill, Scarborough Corporation Bill, Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill, Mid-Kent Water Bill, Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill, Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Bill, Metropolitan Gas (Prepayment Meter) Bill (changed from Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies Bill), South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill, Tottenham Urban District Council Bill, Southport Corporation Bill, Dublin Corporation Bill, Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways Bill, North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill, Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill, Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill, London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill, London County Council (Improvements) Bill, London County Council (General Powers) Bill, London United Tramways Bill, Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, Alexandra Park Bill, Rochdale Corporation Bill, with Amendments.

That they have agreed to Amendments to—Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords], North British Railway Bill [Lords], Walsall Corporation Bill [Lords], Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [Lords], Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords], Ipswich Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel Bill [Lord], Salford Corporation Bill [Lords], Withington Urban District Council Bill [Lords], without amendment 409

PETITION.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petition from Pontefract, in favour; to lie upon the Table 411

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RAILWAYS (GENERAL REPORT)—Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade on the Capital, Traffic, and Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 411

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (UNITED KINGDOM)—Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1885 to 1899, Forty-seventh Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 411

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES)—Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1885 to 1899, Thirty-seventh number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 411

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES, ETC.)—Copy presented, of Report and Statistical Tables relating to Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, 1899, with Statistical Tables [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 411

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 (VESSELS DETAINED)—Copy presented, of Return of all ships ordered by the Board of Trade, or its officers, to be provisionally detained as unsafe, together with summaries, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 411

BOILER EXPLOSIONS ACTS, 1882 and 1890—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with Appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, C. 9495) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 412

TRAMWAY AND GAS AND WATER ORDERS—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Tramways Act, 1870, and the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the Session of 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 412

MERCHANT SEAMEN—Copy presented, of Report of a Committee appointed by the Board of Trade on the question of Continuous Discharge Certificates for Seamen. II. Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 412

TRAMWAYS (STREET AND ROAD)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd July; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 315] 412

BANKRUPTCY—Copy presented, of Seventeenth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade under the Bankruptcy Act, 1883 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 316] 412

COMPANIES (WINDING UP)—Copy presented, of Ninth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 317] 412

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Mr. Thomas Shaw*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 318] 412

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND)—Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation (Scotland) Returns for the year 1898–9 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 319] 412

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BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS)—Copy presented, of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1899–1900, with Statements respecting the several Colleges and Institutions aided and the experiments conducted [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 413

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Mr. Hazell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 320] 413

LOCAL TAXATION (ENGLAND) ACCOUNT, 1899–1900 — Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st June; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 321] 413

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (AREAS TRANSFERRED) — Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 322] 413

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th July; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 323] 413

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND)—Copy presented, of Part II. (Accounts of County Councils and Lunatic Asylums); Part III. (Municipal Borough Accounts, etc.); Part IV. (Accounts of Metropolitan Vestries, District Boards, etc.); Part V. (Accounts of Commissioners of Sewers, etc.); Part VI. (Accounts of Highway Authorities in Rural Districts); and Part VII. (Summary) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 324] 413

CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL BOARD (WAGES)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table 413

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th July, 1899; *Mr. Broadhurst*]; to lie upon the Table 413

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—

1. Adjournment Motions under Standing Order No. 17 — Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 329.]

2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25)—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 330.]

3. Divisions of the House—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

4. Private Bills and Private Business—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

5. Public Bills—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

6. Public Petitions—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

7. Select Committees—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

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8. Sittings of the House—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

9. Business of the House (Days occupied by Government and by Private Members)—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 331] 415

IOCESAN REGISTRIES—Address for "Return of the Statements received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under 7 & 8 Vict., c. 68, from the Diocesan Registrars of the Fees received by them and of the state of their Offices during the last three years."—(*Mr. H. D. Greene*) ... 415

OCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898—Return ordered, "respecting Local Government Electoral Areas, showing for the whole of Ireland the number of Local Government electors and Poor Law Valuation of each county and each county electoral division therein, and of each county district (urban and rural), and each district electoral division or ward therein, and the number of county councillors for each such county and county electoral division, and of district councillors and guardians for each such county district and district electoral division or ward."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy*) 415

UBLIC WORKS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with Appendices, for the year ending 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 416

OVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325] 416

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 326] 416

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327] 416

RIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1899. Part I. Criminal Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 416

LUNACY (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Forty-ninth Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 416

UEEN'S COLLEGE (GALWAY)—Copy presented, of Report of the President for the Session 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 416

LAND JUDGES COURT (IRELAND)—Copy ordered, "of Fourth Return of Estates prepared by the Registrar of the Land Judges Court, pursuant to Rules dated 23rd January, 1897, in relation to proceedings under Section 40 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*) Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328] 416

LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA—Return ordered, "of the Loss of Life at Sea for the year 1899 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 236, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. Ritchie*)... 416

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SERVICE ON COMMITTEES) — Return ordered, "Showing—(*a.*) Names of Members who have not served on Private Bill Committees during the present Parliament (omitting Members of the late and present Governments); (*b.*) Number of days' attendance of Members on Private Bill Committees and Public Committees (other than Standing Committees), during the present Parliament, in the following form:—

Names of Members.	Number of days' attendance.	
	Private Bill Committees.	Public Committees (other than Standing Committees).

—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*) 416

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS) — Power given to the Select Committee to Report their Observations. Report brought up, and read. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332] 416

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—OPERATIONS AGAINST TA-KU FORTS—ATTITUDE OF UNITED STATES ADMIRAL—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 416

ADVANCE OF THE ALLIES ON PEKING—Question, Sir Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 417

SOUTH AFRICA—WAR INDEMNITY—SET-OFF OF THE JAMESON RAID INDEMNITY — Questions, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 418

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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Customs Duties (Isle of Man) Bill, without amendment. That they have agreed to—Agricultural Holdings Bill, and Post Office Sites Bill, with Amendments 452

Agricultural Holdings Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 320] 452

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DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA—

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 453

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 454

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to express the deep concern of this House at the great loss which Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., second son of Her Majesty the Queen, and to condole with Her Majesty on this melancholy occasion; to assure Her Majesty that this House will ever feel the warmest interest in whatever concerns Her Majesty's domestic relations; and to declare the ardent wishes of this House for the happiness of Her Majesty and her family.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of Her Majesty's Household.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That this House do condole with Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, on the great loss which she has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Ordered, That a message of condolence be sent to Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, and that Mr. Speaker do communicate the said message to Her Majesty's Minister resident at the Court of Saxony and Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, with a request that he will attend Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, for the sake of conveying it to Her Royal and Imperial Highness.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SUPPLY—[22ND ALLOTTED DAY]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS II.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £45,501, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

Motion made, and question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100 in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State.—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

DISCUSSION:—

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) ... 463

Mr. Yerburgh (Chester) ... 474

Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick) ... 476

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 481

Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) 493

Mr. Bill (Staffordshire, Leek) ... 496

Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 496

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Discussion :—

Mr. Beckett (*Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby*) 500
Mr. Bryn Roberts (*Carnarvonshire, Eifion*)... ... 502
Mr. David MacIver (*Liverpool, Kirkdale*) 503
Mr. Brodrick 504
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett ... 505
Mr. Charles McArthur (*Liverpool, Exchange*) 506
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 507
Mr. Keswick (*Surrey, Epsom*) ... 508
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 508

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £124,483, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

Discussion :—

Mr. Talbot (*Oxford University*) 510
Mr. Stuart (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 512
Mr. H. C. Richards (*Finsbury, E.*) 513
Mr. Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*) 515
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) ... 516
Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 517
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) ... 517

It being ten of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 15th of February last, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in the Committee of Supply.

Question put.

The Committe divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 262.)

Class I.

3. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £22,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 262 ; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 263.) 521

The Chairman acquainted the Committee that, during the progress of the Division, Dr. Tanner, Member for Mid-Cork, had come to the Table and used insulting language to the Chair, and thereupon, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 27, ordered Dr. Tanner to withdraw immediately from the House and its precincts for the remainder of this day's Sitting, and he withdrew accordingly 523

4. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 251 ; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 264.) 526

5. £16,000, to complete the sum for Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain.

6. £18,000, to complete the sum for Peterhead Harbour.

7. £226,403, to complete the sum for Rates on Government Property.

8. £132,685, to complete the sum for Public Works and Buildings Ireland.

9. £35,487, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland.

CLASS II.

10. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords" 527

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 218 ; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 265.)

11. £14,896, to complete the sum for House of Commons Offices.

12. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £96,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices 531

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 221 ; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 266.)

13. £133,561, to complete the sum for Board of Trade.

14. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £64,018, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of certain services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund" 535

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 267.)

15. £5, to complete the sum for the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade.

16. £13,439, to complete the sum for the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, etc., Office.

17. £33,040, to complete the sum for the Works and Public Buildings Office.

18. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services" 537

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 233 ; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 268.)

19. £8,508, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board for Scotland.

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20. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,811, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland"... 541

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 213; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 269.)

21. £63,245, to complete the sum for the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland.

22. £1,000, to complete the sum for Charitable Donations and Bequests Office, Ireland.

23. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £3,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the Keeper of State Papers in Dublin" 543

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 231; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 270.)

24. £20,682, to complete the sum for the Public Works Office, Ireland.

25. £8,814, to complete the sum for the Registrar General's Office, Ireland.

26. £10,589, to complete the sum for the Valuation and Boundary Survey, Ireland.

CLASS III.

27. £56,652, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Courts of Law, Scotland.

28. £29,237, to complete the sum for the Register House, Edinburgh.

29. £3,000, to complete the sum for the Crofters' Commission.

30. £50,684, to complete the sum for Prisons, Scotland.

31. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland 547

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 271.)

32. £62,262, to complete the sum for the Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland.

33. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £64,710, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries, allowances, and expenses of various county court officers, of commissioners, and of magistrates in Ireland, and the expenses of revision" 551

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 220; Noes, 63. (Division List No. 272.)

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34. £56,150, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

35. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary" 553

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 199; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 273.)

36. £74,443, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland.

37. £2,906, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland.

CLASS IV.

38. £690,318, to complete the sum for Public Education, Scotland.

39. £2,000, to complete the sum for the National Gallery, etc., Scotland.

40. £515, to complete the sum for the Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

41. £1,079, to complete the sum for the National Gallery of Ireland.

42. £2,300, to complete the sum for the Queen's Colleges, Ireland.

CLASS V.

43. £200,000, Supplementary sum for Colonial Services.

CLASS VI.

44. £468, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland.

CLASS VII.

45. £4,191, for Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

46. £37,030, for a contribution to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

47. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £275,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901" 557

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 198; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 274.)

48. £204,000, Ordnance Factories.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

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WAYS AND MEANS—Considered in Committee.—Resolved, That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, the sum of £95,234,796 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) Resolution to be reported To-morrow 559

Supplementary War Loan Bill—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 560

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.) 561

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1898-9—Resolutions reported:—

That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Naval Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8*s.* 3*d.*, as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6*s.* 6*d.*, as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18*s.* 3*d.*

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13*s.* 5*d.*, as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule: while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3*s.* 3*d.*, as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 2*s.* 10*d.*

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total Surpluses	825,325	12	7
Total Deficits	577,801	4	6
Net Surplus	£247,524	8	1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

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1. That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12 11
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services	...	551 11 11	...	636 9 6
4 ...	Martial Law... ...	719 3 2	...	...	40 8 4
5 ...	Educational Services	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11 9
6 ...	Scientific Services ...	2,897 18 0	...	...	5,423 0 7
7 ...	Royal Naval Reserves	...	13,683 11 1	...	188 13 1
8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :				
Sec. 1...	Personnel ...	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
Sec. 2...	Matériel	192,715 5 7	...	...	43,268 14 0
Sec. 3...	Contract Work ...	...	749,758 9 6	2,053 13 10	
9 ...	Naval Armaments ...	...	8,525 13 6	73 15 11	
10 ...	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad... ...	91,241 9 9	...	...	10,752 7 3
11 ...	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	32,862 19 2	...	...	1,553 16 2
12 ...	Admiralty Office ...	500 5 8	...	...	1 17 9
13 ...	Half-pay, Reserved and Retired Pay ...	18,169 4 5	...	954 1 6	
14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3
		Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3		Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10	
		Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ...			£247,524 8 1

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That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present session), and the statement appended thereto as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £268,594 1*s.* 9*d.*, as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £100,615 14*s.* 2*d.*. as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £167,978 7*s.* 7*d.*

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £48,828 14*s.* 6*d.* as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of the other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £226,126 0*s.* 9*d.*, as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £177,297 6*s.* 3*d.*

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total Surpluses	278,806	12	5
Total Deficits	269,487	13	9
Net Surplus	£9,318	18	8

That by a Vote of Parliament during the present session (House of Commons Paper No. 90, of 1900), a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1898–9, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £168,070 2*s.* 6*d.*

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, etc., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	29,358 10 11	...	...	100,529 17 8
2	Medical Establishments : Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia : Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	

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No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... ...	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48 384 14 2	
11	Establishments for Military Education... ...	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc....	...	4,412 6 8	...	3,915 16 1
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances... ...	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	240 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote	...	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		
		Net Deficit, £167,878 7 7		Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3	
		Net Surplus £9,418 18 8			

—(*Mr. Hanbury.*) 461

Resolutions agreed to.

Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments... ... 567

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed 567

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Members of Local Authorities Relief Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed, without amendment 568

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes after One of the clock.

LORDS: FRIDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1900.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK—Petition of Charles Botolph Joseph, Lord Mowbray, Lord Segrave, and Baron and Lord Stourton of Stourton in the county of Wilts, to Her Majesty to determine the abeyance of the dignity of Earl of Norfolk in his favour, and to summon him to Parliament as Earl of Norfolk; together with Her Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the report of the Attorney General thereon thereunto annexed; Presented (by Command), read, and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report 569

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; Morley Corporation Bill [H.L.]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendment considered, and agreed to 569

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 569

London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill—Read 3ª, and passed... 569

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 569

Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sunderland Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Workington Railways and Docks Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to 569

Fraser Settled Chattels Bill [H.L.]; Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to 570

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Alexandra Park Bill; Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill; Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Bill; Coventry Corporation Bill; Devonport Corporation Bill; Dublin Corporation Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Hastings Corporation Bill; Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Improvements) Bill; London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter) Bill, changed from Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to... ... 570

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Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Mid-Kent Water Bill; Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill; Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways Bill; Rochdale Corporation Bill; Scarborough Corporation Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 570

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill; Southport Corporation Bill; South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill; Taunton Corporation Bill; Tottenham Urban District Council Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 571

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to 571

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Minute, dated 31st July, 1900, modifying Article 101 (*g*) of the Day School Code, 1900... 571

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Return, for the year ended 31st August, 1899, showing, under county boroughs and administrative counties, for each public elementary school inspected in England and Wales—1, The name and denomination of school; 2, The number of scholars for whom accommodation was provided; 3, The average number of scholars in attendance; 4, The annual grant paid; 5, Particulars of school income and expenditure 571

NAVY (HEALTH)—Statistical Report of the health of the Navy, for the year 1899 571

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS—Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the strikes and lock-outs of 1899; with statistical tables 571

WAGES (STANDARD TIME RATES)—Report on standard time rates of wages in the United Kingdom in 1900; with comparative tables 571

SHIPPING CASUALTIES—Abstract of the Returns made to the Board of Trade of shipping casualties which occurred on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899; and shipping casualties which occurred to British vessels elsewhere than on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, and to foreign vessels on or near the coasts, or in rivers or harbours, of the British Possessions abroad, reported during the same period; with charts and appendices 572

CUSTOMS—Forty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs, for the year ended 31st March, 1900 572

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS—1. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1899.

2. Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1900, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), 34th and 35th Victoria, chap. 78; together with reports of the inspecting officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

3. Similar Returns during the six months ended 30th June, 1900 ... 572

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Trade Reports (Annual Series)—No. 2497, British Central Africa Protectorate; No. 2498, France (Society Islands) 572

Births, Deaths, and Marriages (England)—Sixty-second Annual Report of the Registrar-General, for 1899. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 572

Naval Savings Banks—Account of deposits in Naval Savings Banks and the payments thereof, and of interest thereon, of all investments under the Naval Savings Banks Act, 1866, and the application of the interest or dividends accruing in respect thereof and of the proceeds of any sale of any stocks, annuities, or securities during the financial year 1898–99 ... 572

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour)—Report by the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1900 573

Weights and Measures—Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Acts 573

Sea Fisheries (England and Wales)—Fourteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors (for 1899) 573

Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries (England and Wales)—Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (for 1899) 573

Superannuation Act, 1887—Return for the year ended 31st March, 1900, of the Army and Navy officers permitted under Rule 2 of the regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, to hold civil employment of profit under public departments. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 573

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a 573

Members of Local Authorities Relief Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to 573

Post Office Sites Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 573

Business of the House—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and suspended for the remainder of the session. Ordered, That Bills have precedence over Notices this day.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 573

South African War—Documents found at Bloemfontein and Pretoria said to Implicate M.P.'s—Question, The Earl of Camperdown; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Selborne) ... 574

Elementary Education Bill—[Second Reading]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

The Earl of Kimberley 577

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly.

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Discussion :—

The Under Secretary of State for India (The Earl of Onslow) 616
The Earl of Kimberley 618
The Earl of Northbrook 618

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Mondry next.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*) (No. 229) ... 619

Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. Commons Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to 619

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Seven of the clock.

COMMONS: FRIDAY, 3rd AUGUST, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Alexandra Park Bill—Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill; Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Bill; Coventry Corporation Bill; Devonport Corporation Bill; Dublin Corporation Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Hastings Corporation Bill; Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Improvements) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to... ... 619

London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill—London United Tramways Bill; Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter) Bill (changed from "Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies Bill"); Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Mid-Kent Water Bill; Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Suppy Bill; Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways Bill; Rochdale Corporation Bill; Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill; Southport Corporation Bill; South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill; Taunton Corporation Bill; Tottenham Urban District Council Bill—Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to 620

Fraser Settled Chattels Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, without amendment 620

Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill, as amended, considered accordingly. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 620

Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration,

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provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill, as amended, considered accordingly. Ordered, That, Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 620

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 621

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to:—Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill; Clontarf Urban District Council Bill; London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill, without amendment; Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill, with Amendments; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [Lords]; Caledonian Railway Bill [Lords]; Margate Corporation Bill [Lords]; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill [Lords]; Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [Lords]; Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]; Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords], without amendment 621

PETITIONS.

Imbeciles (Training Institutions) Bill—Petition from Bradford, in favour; to lie upon the Table 621

Industrial Schools Bill—Petition from Bradford, in favour; to lie upon the Table 621

RATING OF WOODLANDS—Petition from Newcastle-in-Emlyn, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 622

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND—Petition from Rochdale, against establishment; to lie upon the Table 622

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Croydon; and Lincoln (two); to lie upon the Table ... 622

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE—Petition from Lichfield, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 622

Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill—Petition from Lincoln, in favour; to lie upon the Table 622

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL BOARDS (WAGES)—Return [presented 2nd August] to be printed. [No. 334] 622

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS—Return [presented 2nd August] to be printed. [No. 335] 622

ARMY (MILITIA CANDIDATES)—Copy presented, of Regulations for the Competitive Examination of Militia Candidates for Commissions in the Army in September next [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 622

CUSTOMS—Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of Customs for the year ended 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 622

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd April; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 336] 622

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND)—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th March; *Mr. Joseph A. Pease*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 337] ... 623

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887—Copy presented, of Return for the year ended 31st March, 1900, of the Army and Navy Officers permitted under Rule 2 of the Regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Act, to hold Civil Employment of profit under Public Departments [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338] 623

SHIPPING CASUALTIES (1898–9)—Copy presented, of Abstract of the Returns of Shipping Casualties which occurred on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of the United Kingdom from the 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899; and of the Returns of Shipping Casualties to British Vessels elsewhere than on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours of the United Kingdom, and to Foreign Vessels on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of British Possessions Abroad, etc., with Charts and Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 623

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1900, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1900, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 623

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT)—Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 624

BOARD OF TRADE (STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS)—Copy presented, of Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock-outs of 1899, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 624

BOARD OF TRADE (STANDARD TIME RATES OF WAGES)—Copy presented, of Report on Standard Time Rates of Wages in the United Kingdom in 1900, with Comparative Tables [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 624

TRADE AND SHIPPING OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA—Copy presented, of Return of Trade, Shipping, Railways and Economic Condition generally of French, Indo-China, Siam, Straits Settlements and Malay Federated States, and the British and Dutch Possessions in the East Indian Archipelago: a Series of Articles containing information collated from various sources, including the *Board of Trade Journal* [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 624

SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES) — Copy presented, of Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales), for 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 624

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SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Copy presented, of Fourteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors, for 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 624

LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339] ... 624

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR)—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340] 624

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341] 625

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND)—Copy presented, of Sixty-second Annual Report of the Registrar General, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 625

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Copy presented, of Return showing under County Boroughs and Administrative Counties for each Public Elementary School inspected in England and Wales; the name and denomination of School; the number of Scholars for whom accommodation was provided; the average number of Scholars in attendance; the Annual Grant paid; and particulars of School Income and Expenditure; for the year ended 31st August, 1899 (with Summaries) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 625

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Copy presented, of Minute of the Board of Education, dated 31st July, 1900, modifying Article 101 (*g*) of the Day School Code, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 625

ORDNANCE SURVEY—Copy presented, of Report of the Progress of the Ordnance Survey to the 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 625

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2497 and 2498 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 625

NAVY (HEALTH)—Copy presented, of Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 342] 625

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS—Account presented, of Deposits in Naval Savings Banks, and the payments thereof and the interest thereon, etc., during the financial year 1898–9 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 626

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1900–1901)—Copy ordered, "of Tables relating to the Revenue and Expenditure for 1900–1901, according to the latest Estimates."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*) Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333] 626

TEA AND COFFEE—Copy of Statement ordered, "showing the Imports of Tea and Coffee into the principal Countries of Europe and into the United States, together with Statistical Tables relating thereto for recent years, as far as the particulars can be stated."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*) 626

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COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS)—Address for "Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, etc., entered into each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1899, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50. And, of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1899 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 357, of Session of 1899)."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*) 626

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE ON PEKING—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 626

PROPOSED LOAN TO CHANG CHIH-TUNG—Question, Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 627

NAVY—DRAFTS OF UNTRAINED MEN FOR SERVICE IN CHINA—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square) 627

INDIAN TROOPS FOR CHINA—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 628

AUXILIARY FORCES—SERVICE IN CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 628

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 629

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CASUALTY STATISTICS—Question, Sir Charles Cayzer (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 635

LADYSMITH PIGEON POST—Question, Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 635

FIELD BATTERIES AT ALDERSHOT—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 636

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COLOUR-SERGEANTS' PENSIONS—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 636

ACCOMMODATION FOR MILITIA ON SALISBURY PLAIN—Questions, Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones (Montgomery Boroughs) and Mr. Arthur O'Connor (Donegal, E.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 637

SHEFFIELD CITY POLICE AND RIFLE PRACTICE—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir M. White Ridley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 638

AMMUNITION HOISTS ON SHIPS OF WAR—Question, Sir Edward Gourley (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Goschen 638

STEAM COAL CONTRACTS—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Macartney, Antrim, S.) 639

NEW PATTERN GUNS—DELAYED DELIVERY—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Goschen 639

ASHANTI—NATIVE RISING — CAUSES — Question, Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 639

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EXPORTS OF BRITISH COAL—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 640

SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE—Question, Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 641

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 642

VACCINATED CALVES—Question, Mr. Hedderwick; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Chaplin, Lincs., Sleaford) 642

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RATING OF CEMETERIES—Question, Mr. Stephens (Middlesex, Hornsey); Answer, Mr. Chaplin 645

SEWAGE POLLUTION OF THE RIVER THAMES—Questions, Mr. Stephens and Viscount Sandon (Gravesend); Answers, Mr. Chaplin 645

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IRELAND—CASTLEBLANEY RAILWAY STORES—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 650

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PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL—Question, Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 656

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 657

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) and Mr. Labouchere (Northampton); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 657

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

ADJOURNMENT—Resolved, That this House, at its rising, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 659

Post Office Sites Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 659

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill; Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill; Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man) Bill; Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey) Bill; Expiring Laws Continuance Bill; Public Works Loans Bill, without amendment; Executors (Scotland) Bill; Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill, with an Amendment; Elementary Education Bill; Companies Bill; Naval Reserve Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to—Reserve Forces Bill [Lords]; Volunteers Bill [Lords]; Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [Lords], without Amendment ... 659

Companies Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 324] 660

NEW BILLS.

TIED HOUSES—Bill for the abolition of Tied Houses, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Sir John Brunner, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Mr. Herbert Lewis, and Mr. Hazell.

Tied Houses Bill—"For the abolition of Tied Houses," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 321] 660

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND)—Bill to improve the system of registration of writs relating to heritable property in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Anstruther.

Land Registers (Scotland) Bill—"To improve the system of registration of writs relating to heritable property in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 322] 660

CONVOCATIONS—Bill to declare the law in regard to the reform of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and to make provision for constituting Houses of Laymen in connection therewith; and for empowering the said Convocations and Houses of Laymen to sit together, ordered to be brought in by Sir Richard Jebb, Sir William Anson, Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Lucas-Shadwell.

Convocations Bill—"To declare the law in regard to the reform of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and to make provision for constituting Houses of Laymen in connection therewith; and for empowering the said Convocations and Houses of Laymen to sit together," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 323] 660

SUPPLY [25TH JULY]. Resolution reported:—

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900-1901.

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £32,250, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration."

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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Hedderwick (*Wick Burghs*) 661
Mr. Ure (*Linlithgowshire*) 669
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Stepney*) ... 679
Mr. Tomlinson (*Preston*) ... 683
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 684
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*) 686

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution read a second time, and agreed to.

SUPPLY [2ND AUGUST]. Resolutions reported:—

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £45,501, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £124,483, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

CLASS I.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £22,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £18,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £226,403, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

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8. "That a sum, not exceeding £132,685, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for the Maintenance of Drainage Works on the River Shannon."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £35,487, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for payments under the Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883, the Light Railways (Ireland) Acts, 1889 and 1893, the Tramways (Ireland) Act, 1895, the Railways (Ireland) Act, 1896."

CLASS II.

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,896, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Offices of the House of Commons."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £96,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

13. "That a sum, not exceeding £133,561, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,018, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of certain services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £5, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for meeting the Deficiency of Income from Fees, etc., for the requirements of the Board of Trade, under the Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890, and the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890."

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £13,439, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments."

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17. "That a sum, not exceeding £33,040, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings."

18. "That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services."

19. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,508, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for Expenses under the Vaccination Act, Infectious Disease Notification Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Public Health (Scotland) Act, Poor Law (Scotland) Act, and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899."

20. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,811, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland."

21. "That a sum, not exceeding £63,245, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants-in-Aid."

22. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland."

23. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the Keeper of State Papers in Dublin."

24. "That a sum, not exceeding £20,682, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland."

25. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,814, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Department of the Registrar General of Births, etc., and the Expenses of Collecting Emigration and other Statistics in Ireland."

26. "That a sum, not exceeding £10,589, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the General Valuation and Boundary Survey of Ireland."

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Class III.

27. "That a sum, not exceeding £56,652, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Lord Advocate's Department, and other Law Charges, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Courts of Law and Justice in Scotland."

28. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,237, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices in Her Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh."

29. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Establishment of the Crofters' Commission."

30. "That a sum, not exceeding £50,684, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, and of the Prisons under their control, including the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics and the Preparation of Judicial Statistics."

31. "That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

32. "That a sum, not exceeding £62,262, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

33. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,710, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries, Allowances, and Expenses of various County Court Officers, of Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision."

34. "That a sum, not exceeding £56,150, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin."

35. "That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

36. "That a sum, not exceeding £74,443, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals."

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37. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,906, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

Class IV.

38. "That a sum, not exceeding £690,318, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

39. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a grant to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland in aid of the Maintenance of the National Gallery, School of Art, and Museum of Antiquities, Scotland."

40. "That a sum, not exceeding £515, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

41. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,079, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland, including a Grant-in-Aid for the purchase of pictures."

42. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Grant-in-Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

Class V.

43. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £200,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants-in-Aid."

Class VI.

44. "That a sum, not exceeding £468, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Hospitals and Infirmaries, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland, including sundry Grants-in-Aid."

Class VII.

45. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,191, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund of certain Miscellaneous Advances."

46. "That a sum, not exceeding £37,030 be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Contribution to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account."

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

47. "That a sum, not exceeding £275,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

48. "That a sum, not exceeding £204,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Ordnance Factories (the cost of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonials Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

Resolutions read a second time.

First six Resolutions agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Seventh Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £226,403, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.'"

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 702
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Hanbury, Preston*) 702

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions 8 and 9 agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Tenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords.'"

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles... ... 703
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) ... 703
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 704
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 704
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 704
Mr. Hanbury 705

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 128 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 275.)

Resolutions 11 to 15 agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Sixteenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £13,439, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments.'"

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Herbert Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 707
Mr. Hanbury 709
Mr. Lloyd-George 709
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 710

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Seventeenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £33,040, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commisioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings.'"

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Swift MacNeill ... 710
The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's*) 712
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 712

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 150 ; Noes, 10. (Division List No. 276.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Eighteenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.'"

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles... ... 715
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 719
Mr. Hanbury 719
Mr. Maddison (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 719
Mr. Swift MacNeill 720
Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) ... 721
Mr. Herbert Lewis 721
Mr. Hanbury 721
Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 722

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 111 ; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 277.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Thirty-first Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland.'"

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DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) 723
The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) ... 726
Mr. T. P. O'Connor 728

It being Ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 15th February last, proceeded to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 146 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 278.)

Resolutions Thirty-two to Thirty-four agreed to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Thirty-fifth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary.' "

The House divided :—Ayes, 146 ; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 279) ... 731

Resolutions Thirty-six to Forty-one agree to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Forty-second Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.' "

The House divided :—Ayes, 179 ; Noes, 14. (Division List No. 280) ... 733

Resolutions Forty-three to Forty-six agreed to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Forty-seventh Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £275;000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901.' "

The House divided :—Ayes, 148 ; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 281) ... 735

Forty-eighth Resolution agreed to.

UPPLY [17TH JULY] REPORT.

Deferred Resolution [18th July], "That a sum, not exceeding £267,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901," agreed to... 737

SUPPLY [20TH JULY]—Resolutions reported :—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £787,503 (including a Supplementary sum of £95,434), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland."

CLASS III.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £54,767, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

Resolutions read a second time, and agreed to 739

SUPPLY [27TH JULY]—Resolutions reported :—

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATE, 1900–1901.

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,500,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Additional Expenditure, mainly due to the War in South Africa and to Affairs in China, in respect of the following Army Services, viz. :—

Vote 1. Pay, etc., of the Army	£3,250,000
Vote 2. Medical Establishment : Pay, etc.	350,000
Vote 5. Volunteer Corps : Pay and Allowances	500,000
Vote 6. Transport and Remounts	4,500,000
Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	850,000
Vote 8. Clothing Establishments and Services	100,000
Vote 9. Warlike and other Stores	500,000
Vote 10. Works, etc. : Cost (including Staff for Engineer Services)	1,060,000
Vote 12. Miscellaneous Effective Services	140,000
Vote 14. Non-Effective Services, Officers	250,000
Total	£11,500,000"

Resolution read a second time, and agreed to 739

WAYS AND MEANS [2ND AUGUST]—Resolution reported :—"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, the sum of £95,234,796 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom." Resolution agreed to. Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury ... 740

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—"To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and one, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next 740

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ilitary Lands Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. A Clause (County or borough council may lease land and Volunteer Corps may borrow on security of lease) (*Mr. Wyndham*); brought up, and read the first and second time, amended, and added. Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 740

unacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill—Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 740

xecutors (Scotland) Bill—Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 740

lementary Education Bill; Naval Reserve Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 740

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Eleven of the clock.

LORDS: MONDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

OMMISSION—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—1, Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and others); 2, Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity; 3, Customs Duties (Isle of Man); 4, Ancient Monuments Protection; 5, Oil in Tobacco; 6, Members of Local Authorities Relief; 7, Reserve Forces; 8, Volunteers; 9, Prohibition of Exportation of Arms; 10, Intermediate Education (Ireland); 11, Poor Relief (Ireland); 12, Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man); 13, Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey); 14, Expiring Laws Continuance; 15, Public Works Loans; 16, Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2); 17, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7); 18, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15); 19, Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London); 20, Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1); 21, Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2); 22, Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3); 23, Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4); 24, London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order; 25, Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation; 26, Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order; 27, Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4); 28, Post Office Sites; 29, Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10); 30, Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5); 31, North British Railway; 32, Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited; 33, Blackpool, St. Annes, and Lytham Tramways; 34, East London Water; 35, Ilfracombe Improvement; 36, London and North Western Railway (Wales); 37, London and North Western Railway; 38, London County Council (Money); 39, Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway; 40, Ipswich Corporation Tramways; 41, Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel; 42, Salford Corporation; 43, Withington Urban District Council; 44, Sheffield Corporation; 45, Clontarf Urban District Council; 46, Aberdeen Police and Improvement; 47, Baker Street and Waterloo Railway; 48, Bradford Corporation; 49, Charing Cross and Strand Electric Supply; 50, City of London (Various Powers); 51, Croydon Tramways and Improvements; 52, Cumberland County Council (Bridges); 53, Durham (County of)

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Electric Power Supply; 54, Exeter Corporation; 55, Farnworth Urban District Council; 56, Halifax Corporation; 57, Lancashire Electric Power; 58, Lancaster Corporation; 59, Liverpool Corporation; 60, London County Tramways (No. 2); 61, Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation; 62, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply; 63, Oldham Corporation; 64, Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water; 65, South Lancashire Tramways; 66, Wandsworth and Putney Gas; 67, West Bromwich Corporation; 68, West Ham Corporation; 69, Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation; 70, Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation; 71, Caledonian Railway; 72, Margate Corporation; 73, Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland; 74, London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment); 75, Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment); 76, Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water); 77, Morley Corporation; 78, South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways; 79, Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway; 80, Sunderland Corporation; 81, Alexandra Park; 82, Bray and Enniskerry Railway; 83, Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways; 84, Coventry Corporation; 85, Devonport Corporation; 86, Dublin Corporation; 87, Great Northern Railway (Ireland); 88, Hastings Corporation; 89, Huddersfield Corporation Tramways; 90, London County Council (General Powers); 91, London County Council (Improvements); 92, London County Tramways (No. 1); 93, London United Tramways; 94, Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter); 95, Metropolitan District Railway; 96, Mid-Kent Water; 97, Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway; 98, North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply; 99, Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways; 100, Rochdale Corporation; 101, Scarborough Corporation; 102, Southport and Lytham Tramroad; 103, Southport Corporation; 104, South Wales Electrical Power Distribution; 105, Taunton Corporation; 106, Tottenham Urban District Council; 107, Workington Railways and Docks; 108, Bournemouth Corporation; 109, Walsall Corporation; 110, Liverpool Overhead Railway; 111, St. David's Railway Abandonment; 112, Fraser Settled Chattels 741

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY—The Queen's Answer to the Address of Tuesday last, delivered by the Lord Steward (*E. Pembroke and Montgomery*), and read as follows:—

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I unite with you in the expression of indignation and deep concern at the tidings of the assassination of my illustrious ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and I will not fail to convey to His Majesty's successor on the throne your sentiment and abhorrence at the perpetration of such a crime, and your sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy and with the Government and people of that country" 744

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA—The Queen's Answer to the Address of Thursday last, delivered by the Lord Steward (*E. Pembroke and Montgomery*), and read as follows:—

"I return you my most sincere thanks for your loyal and dutiful address, expressing sympathy with me in the great loss which I have sustained by the death of my beloved son the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The assurance of your warm interest in all that concerns my family, and the declaration of your cordial feelings towards both myself and them, are a source to me of true gratification and comfort" 744

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to 744

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 744

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—I. Report, for 1899–1900—Vol. 1, The Report; Vol. 2, Appendix to the Report (Secondary Education); Vol. 3, Appendix to the Report (Elementary Education).

II. Reports from University Colleges, 1900.

III. Schools in receipt of Parliamentary grants (1899–1900).

IV. Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870 (1899–1900).

V. School Board Accounts and list of loans (1899–1900) 745

POST OFFICE—Forty-sixth Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office 745

ORDNANCE SURVEY—Report on the progress of the, to the 31st March, 1900 745

TRADE AND SHIPPING OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA—Trade, shipping, railways, and economic condition generally of French Indo-China, Siam, Straits Settlements, and Malay Federated States, and the British and Dutch possessions in the East Indian Archipelago, a series of articles containing information collated from various sources, including the *Board of Trade Journal*... 745

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS)—Return for the month of December, 1899 745

BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Report, for June, 1900 745

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES)—I. Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1900. II. Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1900 745

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND)—Annual Report, for the year ended 31st March, 1900 746

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND)—I. General Abstracts showing the acreage under crops, also the number and description of live stock in each county and province, for 1899–1900. II. Tables showing the extent in statute acres, and the produce of the crops, for the year 1900. III. (Migratory Labourers). Report and tables relating to migratory agricultural labourers, for the year 1900... 746

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Report for December, 1900. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 746

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND)—Report for the year 1900, by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B., on the inspection of higher class schools and the examination for leaving certificates 746

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PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899—General Orders for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, fixing a scale of fees to be paid by petitioners and opponents of Provisional Orders, and amending the General Orders already issued, made by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons acting jointly with the Secretary of Scotland... ... 746

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF PRESTON)—Order made by the Council of the borough of Preston, in the county of Lancaster, re-dividing the borough into convenient polling districts for the purposes of Parliamentary elections 746

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853 TO 1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE)—Licence granted by Her Majesty to Emily de Charante Lester, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting the said Emily de Charante Lester to be at large, on condition that she enter St. Mary's Home, Wantage, Berkshire. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 746

Executors (Scotland) Bill; Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 747

Elementary Education Bill; Naval Reserve Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 747

Military Lands Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to 747

Money-Lending Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered, according to Order.

Lord James of Hereford 747

Commons Amendments agreed to.

County Courts (Investment of Deposits) Bill [H.L.]—Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to ... ...

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, after line 14, to add a new sub-section as follows: '(2) For the purpose of raising the amounts required to be raised by Section 51 of the principal Act, every collector of poor rate shall be deemed to have had and shall have the same powers to collect, levy, sue for, and recover all money which he has been or shall be authorised to levy under his warrant as he would have had if said principal Act had not passed.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Lord Chancellor for Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 749

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

In page 1, line 18, to leave out 'the twenty-fifth day of' and to insert 'in.'" —(*The Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery.*)

Lord Ashbourne 750

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, after line 18, to insert a new sub-section as follows :—'(2) In Sub-section 4 of said Section 54 the words "which is not agricultural land" shall be and are hereby repealed.' "—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

Lord Ashbourne ... ... 751 *Viscount Templetown* 751

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, at end, to insert 'Provided that where a person receiving and paying rent in respect of the same holding would not, if the principal Act or this Act had not passed, have been entitled to deduct more than half the poor rate from the rent paid by him, the reduction or deduction which may be made under the said Sub-section (4), either as extended or not, shall be calculated on the assumption that the occupier was entitled to deduct half the standard amount for poor rate in the standard financial year.' "—(*The Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery.*)

Lord Ashbourne 751

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 28, after 'or,' to leave out all the words to the end of line 31, and to insert 'any higher rate approved of by the Local Government Board ; and any sum in excess of such exact amount shall be carried to credit of a separate account, and shall be applied towards paying any future levy or levies that may be required to be raised off the same area in respect of the same or any similar charge. Provided always that when any such charge is no longer required to be raised, any balance then remaining to credit of such separate account shall be transferred—(*a*) To credit of the County Fund if it was originally raised off the county at large ; or (*b*) If it was originally raised off any smaller area, then to credit of the District Fund of any county district or districts in which such smaller area is comprised.' "—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

DISCUSSION :—

The Earl of Arran ... 754
Lord Ashbourne 755
Viscount Templetown ... 755
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 756

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 struck out of the Bill.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Amendments reported, and Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read. Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

DISCUSSION :—

The Chairman of the Committees (The Earl of Morley) 758
The Earl of Arran 758
Lord Ashbourne... 759

On Question, agreed to ; Bill read 2^a accordingly.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House forthwith ; House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

"To omit from 'orchard' in line 11, to 'from' in line 12."—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

DISCUSSION :—

The Marquess of Lansdowne 760
The Earl of Arran ... 761
Lord Ashbourne.. 761

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendments reported; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Supplemental War Loan Bill—Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a ; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2^a ; Committee negatived ; Bill read 3^a, and passed 761

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock.

COMMONS: MONDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went ; and, being returned, Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (*See page* 741) 761

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill—Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to 762

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to Amendments to—Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water) Bill [Lords]; Morley Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], without amendment 762

PETITIONS.

Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland) Bill—Petition from Gourock, in favour; to lie upon the Table 762

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Shoreditch; and Ulverston; to lie upon the Table 762

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Fenwick; and Dunrossness; to lie upon the Table 762

Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill—Petition from New Wortley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 762

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS—Account [presented 3rd August] to be printed. [No. 343] 762

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION (EXPENSES)—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 28th April, 1899; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344] 762

DEATHS FROM STARVATION, OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON)—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 2nd March; *Mr. Talbot*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 345] 763

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 8th March; *Mr. Wharton*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 346) 763

BENEFICES ACT, 1898—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 25th May; *Lord Hugh Cecil*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347] ... 763

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 5th July; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348] 763

PRISON OFFICERS' PENSIONS—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 6th July; *Mr. John Hutton*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349] 763

DIOCESAN REGISTRIES—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 2nd August; *Mr. H. D. Greene*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350] 763

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF PRESTON)—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Preston, in the county of Lancaster, re-dividing the Borough into convenient Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 763

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE)—Copy presented, of Licence granted to Emily de Charante Lester, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter Saint Mary's Home, Wantage, Berkshire [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 763

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IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS)—Copy presented, of Return for the month of December, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 763

BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES)—Copy presented, of Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES)—Copy presented, of Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Annual Report for the year ended 31st March, 1900, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Tables showing the extent in statute acres, the produce of crops for the year 1900, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. Copy presented, of General Abstracts showing the acreage under crops, also the number and description of live stock in each County and Province for 1899-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) (MIGRATORY LABOURERS)—Copy presented, of Report and Tables relating to Migratory Agricultural Labourers for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Banking and Railway Statistics (Ireland) to 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 764

TEA AND COFFEE—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd August; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351] ... 764

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Copy presented, of Reports from University Colleges participating in the Grant of £25,000 made by Parliament for "University Colleges in Great Britain" (1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 765

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education, with Appendices, 1899-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.—Copy presented, of Statement showing (1) Schools in receipt of Parliamentary Grants; (2) Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, 1870; and (3) School Board Accounts and List of Loans for the year 1899-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 765

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND)—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1900 by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B., on the Inspection of Higher Class Schools in Scotland, and the Examination for Leaving Certificates [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 765

POST OFFICE—Copy presented, of the Forty-sixth Report of the Postmaster General [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 765

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—Inquiry into Charities (County of Flint).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 5th May, 1897; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed [No. 352] 765

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LUNATIES AND EPILEPTICS IN WORKHOUSES—Return ordered, "of the number of (*a*) Lunatics, and (*b*) Epileptics, not classed as insane, who were inmates of Workhouses in England and Wales on the first day of January, 1900, showing the numbers admitted from each administrative county and county borough."—(*Mr. John Hutton*) 765

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK)—Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Brecknock, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (6) of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*)... 765

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF CARDIGAN)—Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the County of Cardigan, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (7), of Session 1869),"—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*) 766

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF PEMBROKE)—Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the County of Pembroke, particulars of which are recorded in the Books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (10), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*) 766

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF RADNOR)—Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Radnor, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (11), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*) 766

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE—Return ordered, "of the Correspondence between the Board of Education and the Farnworth School Attendance authority relating to the Employment of certain Children of School Age who had been granted certificates of partial exemption by the said Authority."—(*Mr. Ernest Gray*) 766

POST OFFICE MAIL CONTRACT (SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA)—Copy ordered, "of Contract, dated 1st June, 1900, entered into with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of Mails between Liverpool and South and Central America, and the Falkland Islands, and of the Treasury Minute thereon."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)—Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353] 766

VACCINATION—Return ordered, "of Statement showing in respect of each Poor Law Union in England and Wales (1) the number of Certificates of Conscientious Objection under Section 2 of the Vaccination Act, 1898, received by the Vaccination Officers, which were dated between the 1st day of January and the 31st day of March, the 1st day of April and the 30th day of June, the 1st day of July and the 30th day of September, and the 1st day of October and the 31st day of December respectively in the year 1899; and (2) the number of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccination received by the Vaccination Officers during the periods between the 1st day of January and the 30th day of June, and the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December respectively in the years 1898 and 1899."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)—Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 354] 767

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QUESTIONS.

China—Anti-Foreign Outbreak—Relief of Peking—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 767

Australasian Contingent for China—Questions, Sir J. Colomb (Great Yarmouth) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square) ... 768

South African War—Transvaal Government's Preparations for War—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 768

Settlement of Australians and Canadians in South Africa—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, Mid); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 769

Privations of General Rundle's Force—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. J. Powell-Williams, Birmingham, S.) 769

Boer Prisoners at Pretoria—Attempt to Blow up Magazine—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams 770

Civil Medical Officers in South Africa—Allowances—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams 770

Code Cablegrams to South Africa—Question, Mr. Lafone (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams 771

The Kerry Militia—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams 771

Private Gillen, Royal Irish Rifles—Question, Mr. Macaleese (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams 771

Purchase of Cannon Abroad—Questions, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Powell-Williams . 772

Volunteers in the G.P.O.—Camping Arrangements—Question, Mr. Steadman (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 772

Submarine Vessels—Questions, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee), and Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley); Answer, Mr. Goschen... ... 773

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Australian Commonwealth—Date of Proclamation—Question, Mr. Hogan; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 775

Western Australia's Decision—Question, Mr. Hogan; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 775

Congo—British-Belgian Boundaries—Alleged Belgian Outrages—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 775

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EDUCATION PROSECUTION AT HYDE—CASE OF FRANK HILL—Question, Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Brightside); Answer, Sir M. White Ridley... ... 777

WATERPROOFS FOR PARK KEEPERS—Question, Mr. John Hutton (Yorkshire, Richmond); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 778

BURIAL OF BODIES CAST UP BY THE SEA—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 778

THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY — Question, Mr. Provand (Glasgow, Blackfriars); Answer, Mr. Hanbury... 779

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CARNOUSTIE BAY—STEAM TRAWLING Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, Mr. Goschen 784

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—THE BAGOT ESTATE—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 784

TRANSPORT OF DOGS FROM IRELAND—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 785

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SNEEN PETTY SESSIONS—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour... 786

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ARMS ACT ADMINISTRATION—MURDER OF MR. HUDSON—Questions, Mr. William Moore (Antrim, N.), and Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 787

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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Police and Sanitary Regulations Bill—Special Report from the Select Committee brought up, and read. Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 355.] Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 355] 791

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Supplemental War Loan Bill, without amendment; Local Government (Ireland) Bill; Tramway (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to—Money-lending Bill [Lords], County Courts (Investment of Deposits) Bill [Lords], Military Lands Bill [Lords], without amendment 791

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 325] 791

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 326] 791

Colonial Stock Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out 'purpose,' and insert 'purposes of Section 2 of this Act and'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.*) ... 792

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, at end, to add, 'The Treasury shall keep a list of any Colonial stocks in respect of which the provisions of this Act are for the time being complied with, and shall publish the list in such manner as they think fit.'"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 792

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out all the words after the word 'in,' in line 4, in order to insert the words, 'the *London Gazette*.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'such manner as they think fit' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. James Lowther (*Kent, Thanet*) 792
Sir M. Hicks-Beach 792
Mr. Caldwell 792

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Amendment of Sir M. Hicks-Beach, altered as just indicated, agreed to.

Clauses 2, 3, and 4 agreed to.

New clause :—

> "This Bill shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

—brought up, and read a second time.

Motion moved, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir M. Hicks-Beach ... 795
Mr. Caldwell 796

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn,

Bill reported, with Amendments. As amended to be considered To-morrow.

Supplemental War Loan Bill—[THIRD READING]—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 796

Question put, agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 802

The House divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 282.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 3, after line 40, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 3, after line 40, insert:—
>
> '(2.) Where the hereditaments out of which the tithe rent-charge is payable are situate partly in an urban and partly in a rural district any question which may arise as to the portions of the tithe rent-charge which are to be deemed for the purposes of this section to be payable in respect of the parts of the hereditaments situate in the rural and urban districts respectively shall be referred to the Land Commission, whose decision shall be final.

"(3.) Section 1 of the Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Act, 1848 (which provides for deduction from rent paid in respect of tithe rent-charge) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, where tithe rent-charge is reduced by virtue of this section [and, in the application of the said Section 1 to tithe rent-charge payable out of hereditaments situate within a rural district, "one-quarter" shall be substituted for "one-half."]'"

—read a second time,

Motion made, and Question proposed, 'That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Swift MacNeill ... 804

The Attorney General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) 804

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 4, line 25, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 25, after 'sale,' insert '(3.) Where the estate or interest conveyed was less than the fee-simple, this section shall not apply after the determination of such less estate or interest.'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Atkinson 805

Mr. Swift MacNeill ... 805

Mr. G. W. Balfour 805

Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) ... 805

Question put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 1, line 24, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 24, leave out sub-section (3), and insert 'The principal Act is hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of the Schedule to this Act'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 806

The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 807

Mr. Haldane (*Haddingtonshire*) 807

Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 809

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 88 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 283.)

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

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Agricultural Holdings Bill—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 12, after 'tenant' insert 'Provided always, that in estimating the value of any such improvement, there shall not be taken into account, as part of the improvement made by the tenant, what is justly due to the inherent capabilities of the soil'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Haldane ... ... 811 *Mr. Channing* 812
Sir Robert Finlay ... ... 811 *Mr. Ellis Griffith* (*Anglesey*) ... 812

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 94 ; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 284.)

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 4, line 22, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 22, to leave out 'twenty-five, twenty-six, and twenty-seven, and insert 'twenty-three, twenty-four, and twenty-five'"

—read a second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Channing ... ... 814 *Mr Asquith* 815

The consideration of the Lords Amendment was postponed.

The next Amendment, page 5, line 9, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 8 (to leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Channing ... ... 816 *Sir Robert Finlay* 816

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 96 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 285.)

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 10 (leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Brynmor Jones (*Swansea District*) 817
Sir Robert Finlay... ... 819
Capt. Sinclair (*Forfarshire*) 819
Col. Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) ... 819
Mr. Channing 820
Mr. Ellis Griffith 820
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 820

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Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 95; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 286.)

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 17 (leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Discussion:—

Mr. Soames (Norfolk, S.) ... 823 *Capt. Sinclair* 824

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 99; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 287.)

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

Postponed Amendment agreed to.

Companies Bill—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 23. (Division List No. 288.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 6, line 18, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 18 (leave out from "any," to the first "and" in line 20), read a second time.

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Discussion:—

Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.) ... ... 827 *Sir Robert Finlay* 829
Mr. Brynmor Jones 829

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 289.)

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Discussion :—

Mr. Channing 831
Sir J. Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 841
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 846
Sir Wilfrid Lawson (*Cumberland, Cockermouth*) ... 847
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) 852
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 862
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 869
Col. Blundell (*Lancashire, Ince*)... 872
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S.W.*) 873
The Under Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 877
Mr. Havelock Wilson (*Middlesbrough*) 879
The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 888
Mr. Ellis Griffith (*Anglesey*) ... 889
The Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education (*Sir J. Gorst, Camb. University*) 891
Mr. Brynmor Jones 891

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

China—Anti-Foreign Outbreak—Recent News—On the Motion for Adjournment :—

Mr. Brodrick 892

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before One of the clock.

LORDS: TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1900.

Judicial Business—Ordered, That this House do meet on Tuesday, the 13th day of November next, at Eleven o'clock, for the purpose of hearing and determining Appeals and matters connected therewith, pursuant to the provisions of the "Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876"; and that during such meeting of the House leave be given to the Appeal Committee to meet 893

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Army—Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Barracks Act of 1890 and Military Works Act of 1897 and 1899 (in substitution of Command Paper 82 of 1900) 893

South African Republic and Orange Free State—Return with reference to each of the Railways in the Orange Free State and in the South African Republic respectively, showing whether such railways belong to the State or to private companies; and also giving the cost or capital value of the same. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of the 8th of March last), and to be printed. (No. 230) 893

Patriotic Fund—Thirty-eighth Report of the Royal Commissioners 893

Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Ireland)—Thirty-eighth Report of the Inspector, for 1899 893

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AGRICULTURE (EARNINGS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS)—Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom; with statistical tables and charts 893

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—No. 2499, China (Newchwang); No. 2500, China (Kiu Kiang); No. 2501, China (Kiungchow); No. 2502, China (Amoy); No. 2503, Japan (Hakodate) 894

INLAND REVENUE—Forty-third Report of the Commissioner of Her Majesty's Inland Revenue, for the year ended 31st March, 1900. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table... 894

INCOME TAX—Warrant of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury dated 31st July, 1900, appointing Mr. Samuel Porter Foster to be a Special Commissioner of Income Tax 894

SUPERANNUATION — Treasury Minute, dated 1st August, 1900, declaring Hangchow, Soochow, Shashih, Samshui, and Wuchow to be unhealthy places for the purposes of the Superannuation Acts, 1859 and 1876 ... 894

ARKLOW HARBOUR—Report of Arklow Harbour Commissioners, for 1899; and statement of accounts 894

CLERGY (WEST INDIES)—Return of the amount payable on 5th January, 1900, out of the Consolidated Fund for ecclesiastical purposes in the West Indies 894

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE—Accounts for 1899-1900. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 894

Agricultural Holdings Bill; Companies Bill; Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 894

Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment 895

Copyright Bill [H.L.] **and Copyright (Artistic) Bill** [H.L.]—Message from the Commons for copy of the Report, etc., from the Select Committee. Ordered to be communicated accordingly 895

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed:—

Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill—Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to 895

Colonial Stock Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to 895

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment. The said Amendment considered (on motion), and agreed to 895

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 895

House adjourned at five minutes before Six of the clock.

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1900.

ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY—The TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 31st day of July, as followeth:—"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I unite with you in the expression of indignation and deep concern at the tidings of the assassination of my illustrious ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and I will not fail to convey to His Majesty's successor on the throne your sentiment of abhorrence at the perpetration of such a crime, and your sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy, and with the Government and people of that country" 895

DEATH OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.—The TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 2nd day of this instant August, as followeth:—"I return you my most sincere thanks for your loyal and dutiful address expressing sympathy with me in the great loss which I have sustained by the death of my beloved son the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The assurance of your warm interest in all that concerns my family, and the declaration of your cordial feelings towards both myself and them, are a source to me of true gratification and comfort" 896

PETITIONS.

Factories and Workshops Bill—Petition from Hornsey against; to lie upon the Table 896

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Neath; Aberavon; Swansea (two); Cwm Avon; Brynhyfod; and Harringay; to lie upon the Table 896

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE—Petition from Camberwell, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 896

Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill—Petitions in favour, from Swansea (two); Neath; Brynhyfod; East Finchley; and Aberavon; to lie upon the Table 896

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill—Petitions in favour, from Aberavon; Swansea (two); and Neath (two); to lie upon the Table 897

Temperance Reform Threefold Option (Scotland) Bill—Petition from Possilpark; and Lambhill, in favour; to lie upon the Table 897

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS)—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 3rd August; *Mr. Jesse Collings*]; to lie upon the Table... 897

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND)—Copy presented, of Thirty-seventh Report of the Inspector [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 897

LUNATICS AND EPILEPTICS IN WORKHOUSES—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. John Hutton*]; to lie upon the Table 897

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EARNINGS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS—Copy presented, of Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom, with Statistical Tables and Charts; to lie upon the Table 897

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899—Copy presented, of General Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 356) 897

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2499–2503 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY—Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1900, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

INLAND REVENUE—Copy presented, of Forty-third Report of the Commissioners (for the year ended 31st March, 1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS)—Account presented, of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

NATIONAL DEBT—Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Value of Terminable Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835–6 to 1899–1900, both inclusive; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged Annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other payments connected with Capital Liabilities (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C. 9438] of Session 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 898

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 357] 898

ARKLOW HARBOUR—Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 898

CLERGY (WEST INDIES)—Copy presented, of Return of the Amount payable on 5th January, 1900, out of the Consolidated Fund for Ecclesiastical purposes in the West Indies [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 899

SUPERANNUATION ACTS, 1859 AND 1876—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 1st August, 1900, declaring Hangchow, Soochow, Shashih, Samshui, and Wuchow, to be unhealthy places for the purposes of the Superannuation Acts, 1859 and 1876 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 899

INCOME TAX—Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 31st July, 1900, appointing Mr. Samuel Porter Foster, of Carlisle, to be a Special Commissioner of Income Tax [by Act]; to lie upon the Table... 899

FORESHORES—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 7th August, 1900, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1900, in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the Foreshores of the United Kingdom [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 899

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Royal Niger Company—Account presented, of the money expended and borrowed and the Securities created under the Royal Niger Company Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 899

Supreme Court of Judicature — Account presented, of Receipts and Expenditure of the Paymaster General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the Funds of Suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1900; and of Account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of Funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 358] 899

Employment of Children of School Age—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Ernest Gray*]; to lie upon the Table ... 900

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—1. Inquiry into Charities (County of Carmarthen).—Further return relative thereto [ordered 10th February, 1898; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

2. Inquiry into Charities (County of Lancaster).—Further return relative thereto [ordered 8th August, 1898; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

3. Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Durham).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

4. Inquiry into Charities (County of Montgomery).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

5. Endowed Charities (County of Brecknock).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

6. Endowed Charities (County of Cardigan).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

7. Endowed Charities (County of Pembroke).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

8. Endowed Charities (County of Radnor).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]. 900

Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and Registration (Ireland) Act, 1898 (Orders and Rules)—Copies ordered, "of Orders and Rules, or in certain cases Schedules enumerating Orders and Rules, made under or in consequence of the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 360, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*) Copies presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 359] 900

Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and Registration (Ireland) Act, 1898 (Orders and Rules)—Copy ordered, "of Index to Orders and Rules [presented 8th August, 1899]."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*) Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 360] 901

Post Office (District Messengers Company)—Return ordered, "of the amounts paid by the District Messengers and Theatre Ticket Company, Limited, to the Post Office, and of the payments made by the Post Office to the company, year by year from the commencement of their licence."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) 901

Post Office (Telephone Service)—Return ordered, "of the receipts of the Post Office from the Telephone Service."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles*) 901

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CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE—STATEMENTS OF LI HUNG CHANG—Questions, Mr. Bainbridge (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough), Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, and Mr. Pritchard-Morgan (Merthyr-Tydvil); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 902

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INDIA—FAMINE STATISTICS—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 926

IRRIGATION AND WATER STORAGE WORKS—Question, Mr. Souttar (Dumfriesshire); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 927

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY — REPAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT ADVANCES—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 927

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN INDIA—PENSIONS—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 928

COOPER'S HILL ENGINEERS—Questions, Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth) and Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answers, Lord George Hamilton 928

SEA FISHERIES BILL COMMITTEE—Question, Sir J. Colomb; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr Ritchie, Croydon) 930

SEA FISHERIES—INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 930

SEA FISHERIES—FUTURE LEGISLATION—Question, Mr. C. H. Wilson; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 930

PARIS EXHIBITION—SUGGESTED EXPERT COMMISSION IN BRITISH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—Question, Mr. Bainbridge; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 931

DOG QUARANTINE REGULATIONS—Question, Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 932

WELSHPOOL CATTLE MARKETS—Question, Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 932

KENT COAL FIELDS—Question, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) 933

THE BROWN INSTITUTION—INOCULATIONS WITH RABIES—Question, Mr. Moss; Answer, Mr. Jesse Collings 933

MAIDSTONE PRISON WARDERS—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Jesse Collings 934

HAPTON VALLEY COLLIERY—Question, Mr. Philip Stanhope (Burnley); Answer, Mr. Jesse Collings 934

MONTGOMERYSHIRE WORKHOUSES—Question, Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) 935

VACCINATION EXPENSES—Question, Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones; Answer, Mr. Chaplin 935

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ACCINATION STATISTICS—Question, Sir Walter Foster; Answer, Mr. Chaplin 935

ISSENTING MINISTERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE—Question, Mr. Bainbridge; Answer, Mr. Chaplin 936

ATERHAM AND LEAVESDEN ASYLUMS—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answer, Mr. Chaplin 936

IVIL SERVICE—TEMPORARY COPYISTS—Question, Mr. Skewes-Cox (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 937

ILLAR AND WALL LETTER BOXES IN THE CITY—Question, Mr. Cohen; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 937

BANK HOLIDAY DUTY IN THE POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. Steadman (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 937

GAERWEN TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesea); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 938

TRAMORE PIER—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Hanbury ... 939

KIRKCALDY AND SINCLAIRTOWN STATIONS—SHUNTING ARRANGEMENTS—Question, Mr. Dalziel; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 939

BUTE PROCURATOR FISCAL—Question, Mr. Caldwell; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 939

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DUBLIN—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 940

LAND CASES IN KERRY—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 941

BELFAST WATER COMMISSION—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Hanbury 941

BALLYGAWLEY POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 942

PARCEL POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 942

MARLBOROUGH STREET, DUBLIN, TRAINING COLLEGE—SPRINGTOWN EVENING SCHOOL—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour ... 943

MITCHELSTOWN UNION MAGISTRACY—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 944

RAILWAY EXTENSION TO BERBULLET—Question, Mr. Crilly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 944

THE GRAND CANAL COMPANY—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Hanbury 945

SNEEM PIER—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 946

THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER—Question, Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 946

SUGAR BOUNTIES—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 946

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Copyright Bill [Lords] and **Copyright (Artistic) Bill** [Lords]—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Copyright Bill [Lords], and the Copyright (Artistic) Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, etc.—(*Mr. Attorney General*) ... 947

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Supplemental War Loan Bill; Amendment to Amendments to—Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill; Amendments to—Colonial Stock Bill [Lords]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment 947

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS—That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by this House in the Present Session of Parliament on War Office Contracts, together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence. Printed Copy to be communicated accordingly 948

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE—Resolved, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Ten of the clock."—(*Mr. Balfour*) 948

Colonial Stock Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered.

New clause—

"In the application of this Act to Scotland the words 'Trusts (Scotland) Amendment Act, 1884,' shall be substituted for the words 'Trustee Act, 1893,' where those words first occur in Section 2; and the restrictions mentioned at the end of the said section shall apply."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a second time."

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 949

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time, and added.

An Amendment made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

DISCUSSION:—

Mr. Caldwell 949

Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 951

Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 953

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Local Government (Ireland) Bill—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 18, to leave out ('the twenty-fifth day of') and insert ('in')

—agreed to.

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Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 3, at end, to insert ('Provided that where a person receiving and paying rent in respect of the same holding would not, if the principal Act or this Act had not passed, have been entitled to deduct more than half the poor rate from the rent paid by him, the reduction or deduction which may be made under the said subsection (4), either as extended or not, shall be calculated on the assumption that the occupier was entitled to deduct halt the standard amount for poor rate in the standard financial year")

—read a second time.

Motion and Question proposed—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Swift MacNeill ... 954

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 955

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 23, (leave out Clause 4),"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Swift MacNeill ... 956

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 957

Mr. G. W. Balfour 957

Mr. Birrell (Fifeshire, W.) 958

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 100; Noes. 59. (Division List No. 290.)

A consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 11, after 'haggard' to insert 'or,'"

—agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 11, to leave out from 'orchard' to 'from' in line 12"—

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) 960

The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) ... 961

Mr. T. P. O'Connor 961

Mr. Swift MacNeill 961

Mr. G. W. Balfour 962

Question put, and agreed to.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

Mr. Gibson Bowles 962
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Hanbury, Preston*) 963

Clause 3 and the remaining clauses were agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

Post Office Mail Contract—South and Central America—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the contract dated the 1st day of June, 1900, entered into with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and South and Central America and the Falkland Islands be approved."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Mr. Caldwell 964

Question put, and agreed to.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Six of the clock.

LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 8th AUGUST, 1900.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Government Laboratory—Report of the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory upon the work of the Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1900; with appendices. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 965

Post Office Savings Bank—Regulations, 1900 965

Foreshores—Treasury Minute, dated 7th August, 1900, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1900, in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the foreshores of the United Kingdom. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 965

War Office Contracts—Report, etc., of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. Communicated, pursuant to message of yesterday, and to be printed. (No. 230) 965

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2^a.—(*The Earl Waldegrave.*) Committee negatived. Bill read 3^a, and passed 965

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed:—

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Commission—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—1, Supplemental War Loan; 2, Elementary Education; 3, Executors (Scotland); 4, Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.); 5, Naval Reserve; 6, Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland); 7, Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment; 8, Agricultural Holdings; 9, Companies; 10, Town Councils (Scotland); 11, Money Lending; 12, County Courts (Investment of Deposits); 13, Military Lands; 14, Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment; 15, Local Government (Ireland); 16, Colonial Stock; 17, Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway; 18, Manchester Corporation Tramways 965

The Queen's Speech—Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands) 966

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the twenty-seventh day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the twenty-seventh day of October next."

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1900.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

County Courts (Plaints and Sittings)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 361] 969

Lunatics and Epileptics in Workhouses—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 362] 969

Clergy (West Indies)—Paper [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 363] 969

Royal Niger Company—Account [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 364] 969

Employment of Children of School Age—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 365] 969

nquiry into Charities (County of Carmarthen)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 366] 969

nquiry into Charities (County of Lancaster)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 367] 970

nquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Durham)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 368] 970

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 369] 970

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 370] 970

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF CARDIGAN)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 371] 970

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF PEMBROKE)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 372] 970

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF RADNOR)—Return [presented 7th August] to be printed [No. 373] 970

PATRIOTIC FUND—Copy presented, of Thirty-eighth Report of the Royal Commissioners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 970

ARMY (MILITARY) WORKS—Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under The Barracks Act, 1890, and Military Works Acts, 1897 and 1899 (in substitution of Command Paper 82, of Session 1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 970

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 7th August; *Mr. H. J. Wilson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 374] 970

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—Members of Parliament (Service on Committees).—Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to be printed [No. 375] 970

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1900, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 26th Parliament, Seventh Session, 63 and 64 Vic., 30th January, 1900, to 8th August, 1900; to be printed [No. 376] 971

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE ON PEKING—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 971

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—DISCOVERY OF DOCUMENTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA SAID TO IMPLICATE M.P.'s—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) [Question ruled out of Order] 971

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY—Questions, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) [Question not put] and Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 972

IRELAND—TRAMORE PIER—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 973

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MARLBOROUGH STREET TRAINING COLLEGE, DUBLIN —TEACHERS' PERSONAL ALLOWANCES—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) 973

SPRINGTOWN EVENING SCHOOL—TEACHERS' EMOLUMENTS—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 974

RAND CANAL COMPANY—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. G. W. Balfour 974

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Ure.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) ... 979
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) ... 980
The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 987
Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Cumberland, Cockermouth) ... 991
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) 992
Admiral Field (Sussex, Eastbourne) 995
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 997
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1005
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1008
Mr. J. Chamberlain 1014

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill; Amendments to Colonial Stock Bill [Lords]; Amendment to Amendments to —Local Government (Ireland) Bill, without amendment.

Copyright Bill [Lords] and **Copyright (Artistic) Bill** [Lords]—That they communicate Copy of Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament on the Copyright Bill [Lords], and Copyright (Artistic) Bill [Lords], together with the Minutes of Evidence, Proceedings of the Committee, and Appendix, as desired by this House... 1014

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to a number of Bills. (*See* House of Lords Report this day; page 965.)

And afterwards Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said :—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday, the twenty-seventh day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday, the twenty-seventh day of October next."

End of the Seventh Session of the Fourteenth Parliament of Her Majesty.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED
TO MEET THE 30TH JANUARY 1900, IN THE 63RD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1900.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 30th July, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground).
2. Land Registry (New Buildings).
3. Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland).
4. Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension.
5. Poor Removal.
6. Charitable Loans (Ireland).
7. Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment).
8. Land Charges.
9. Railways (Prevention of Accidents).
10. Inebriates Amendment (Scotland).
11. County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London).
12. Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland) (No. 2).
13. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6).
14. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7).
15. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8).
16. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9).
17. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12).
18. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
19. Gas Provisional Order (No. 3).
20. Water Orders Confirmation.
21. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).
22. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
23. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).
24. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
25. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
26. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).
27. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
28. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).
29. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).
30. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
31. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).
32. Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes).
33. London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order.

34. London (Poplar) Provisional Order.
35. London (St. Luke) Provisional Order.
36. London (Southwark) Provisional Order.
37. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
38. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes).
39. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2).
40. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2).
41. Perth and Paisley Gas Provisional Orders.
42. Hartlepool Gas and Water.
43. Latimer Road and Acton Railway.
44. Mountain Ash Water.
45. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways.
46. Airdrie, Coatbridge, and District Water Trust.
47. Brighton Corporation.
48. Reading Corporation (Tramways).
49. Wolverhampton Gas.
50. Vale of Rheidol Light Railway.
51. Great Yarmouth Port and Haven.
52. Edinburgh District Lunacy Board.
53. Cork Electric Tramways.
54. Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.
55. Spalding Urban District Council (Water).
56. Falkirk Corporation.
57. Rhymney Railway.
58. Great Eastern Railway.
59. London and Saint Katherine Docks and East and West India Dock Companies.
60. St. Albans Water.
61. Donegal Railway.
62. Great Southern and Western Railway.
63. Bray Urban District Council.
64. Westgate and Birchington Water.
65. Lee Conservancy.
66. North Metropolitan Railway and Canal.
67. South Staffordshire Tramways.
68. Falkirk and District Water.
69. Hamilton, Motherwell, and Wishaw Tramways.
70. Wellingborough and District Tramroads.
71. Aston Manor Tramways.
72. Exmouth Urban District Water.
73. Gwyrfai Rural District Council Water.
74. Dearne Valley Railway.
75. Whitechapel and Bow Railway.
76. Hammond (G. H.) Company.
77. London and San Francisco Bank.
78. Belfast and County Down Railway.
79. Jarrow and Hebburn Electricity Supply.
80. Nottingham Corporation.
81. Edinburgh Corporation.
82. Mersey Railway.
83. Rawmarsh Urban District Council (Tramways).
84. Great Grimsby Street Tramways.
85. Margate Pier and Harbour.
86. Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company.
87. Great Northern Railway.
88. Hastings Tramways.
89. Lambeth Water.
90. Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway.
91. Midland Railway.
92. Bury and District Water (Transfer).
93. Preston Corporation.
94. London Sea Water Supply.
95. South Eastern Metropolitan Tramways.
96. Portland Urban District Gas.
97. Burnley Corporation.
98. Glasgow Building Regulations.
99. Motherwell and Bellshill Railway.
100. North Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels).
101. Rotherham Corporation.
102. Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas.
103. Barnsley Corporation.
104. Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway.
105. Ramsgate Corporation Improvements.
106. South Shields Corporation.
107. Aberdeen Corporation Tramways.
108. Great Western Railway.
109. London and South Western Railway.
110. South Metropolitan Gas.
111. North Eastern Railway.
112. Crystal Palace Company.
113. Roe's Patent.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Dublin Corporation.
Clontarf Urban District Council.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 1) BILL.

The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROADS BILL.

The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported with Amendments.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL.

ALEXANDRA PARK BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

WALSALL CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SHANNON WATER AND ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

LANCASTER CORPORATION BILL.

FARNWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 2) BILL.

The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I should like to call your Lordships' attention to the fact that a clause has been introduced into this Bill protecting the Gas and Water Companies' pipes against injury by the tramways' electric current, and providing compensation for any damage done. The decision of the Select Committee to whom this Bill was referred, in introducing this clause, rather goes against certain portions of the Joint Committee's clause of 1893. It is a point of very considerable importance. I am bound to say, however, that the condition of London itself and the very large interests that are involved do not render it necessary for me to take any action on the clause, but I thought it was one which ought to be mentioned to the House, because it undoubtedly does affect to some extent some of the provisions of the Joint Committee's clause of 1893.

Moved, "That the Bill be read a third time."—(*The Earl of Morley.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

DURHAM (COUNTY OF) ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

LANCASHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

LONDON (ST. MARYLEBONE) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2491. Borneo (Brunei and Sarawak);

No. 2492. United States (Hawaiian Islands).

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.

Return showing the total payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year 1899-1900.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).

Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Commissioners.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1900. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

APPEAL COMMITTEE.

Third Report from; read, and agreed to.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House To-morrow.

OIL IN TOBACCO BILL.

Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

CUSTOMS DUTIES (ISLE OF MAN) BILL.

Read 2^a (according to Order). Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 30th July, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, being returned—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (*see page* 1).

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Order of the House (8th March), That in the case of Bills reported from the Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations three clear days shall intervene between the date when the Report of the Committee is circulated with the Votes and the Consideration of the Bill, be suspended in the case of the Sheffield Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) explained the action of the Committee on Police and Sanitary

Regulations Bills in striking out the clause empowering the corporation to contribute to rifle ranges. He said the reason why they did so was because the proposal was not germane to the ordinary work of the Committee, all the more so as there was not unnatural jealousy in regard to the increasing sphere of work which that Committee was gradually undertaking. It now not only dealt with police and sanitary matters, but it also dealt with Acts containing gas, electric, tram, and other schemes. In dealing with such matters, they had had the courage of their opinions, but when they were asked to intervene in a matter relating to the defence of this country, they felt that in doing so they would be trespassing too much on the confidence of the House. They were also aware that there was before Parliament a Bill relating to military lands, and in view of that fact they decided that they ought not to take what was of the nature of a final decision on a matter which was before the House in a public Bill. They therefore struck out this clause. It had, however, since been explained that this particular matter was not exactly covered by the Military Lands Bill, and the Committee therefore would offer no opposition to the reinsertion of the clause if the House should think fit. Under these circumstances he did not oppose the Suspension of Standing Orders.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered."

*MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said the statement of the noble Lord relieved him of a good deal of anxiety, because in moving the reinsertion of the clause he would have laboured under very great difficulties had he had to face the opposition of the Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills. He need now only move the resolution standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the words 'now considered,' and add the words 'recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of a new clause (Power to contribute to rifle ranges).'"—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," put, and negatived.

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of a new clause (Power to contribute to rifle ranges).

Bill considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MARGATE CORPORATION BILL [Lords]. (BY ORDER.)

As amended, considered; Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I object.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I understand that the object of my hon. friend in objecting to this Bill being proceeded with is to get an assurance that nothing shall be done in another place to interfere with a certain clause. I am authorised to say that as far as the promoters can do so they give that assurance. The objection, therefore, will only have the effect of hanging the Bill up for twenty-four hours.

MR. STRACHEY: I want more than that. I want an assurance that the promoters will resist the clause being struck out.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: That would be a very unconstitutional assurance for me to give.

MR. STRACHEY: I want the promoters to undertake not only that they will not themselves strike out the clause, but that as far as possible they will resist any proposal to do it.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: It would be unusual and irregular for me to give that assurance.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

IRISH RAILWAY AMALGAMATION BILLS.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): It would be for the convenience of a great number of Members if the right hon. Gentleman the Chairman of Committees will state when it is proposed to put down the Irish Railway Amalgamation Bills. Also, will there be a Report stage?

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): It is proposed to put them down for to-morrow, but if objection is taken they will in the ordinary course go over till Wednesday morning. If more convenient they could be fixed for Thursday. With regard to further stages, if the Bill receives the assent of the House on the motion for the Second Reading I shall propose to move the suspension of the Standing Orders, which would obviate the necessity of sending the Bills to a Committee, that stage having already been taken in another place. The Third Reading might, if that were done, be taken at once.

MR. POWER: Will it be competent for Members to move new clauses or amendments?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: Not if there is no Committee stage.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Amendments to—Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas Bill [Lords]; Barnsley Corporation Bill [Lords]; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill [Lords]; North Eastern Railway Bill [Lords]; Ramsgate Corporation Improvements Bill [Lords]; South Shields Corporation Bill [Lords], without amendment.

That they have agreed to—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Liverpool Corporation Bill; Exeter Corporation Bill; Aberdeen Police and Improvements Bill; Wandsworth and Putney Gas Bill; West Ham Corporation Bill; Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill; South Lancashire Tramways Bill; Lancaster Corporation Bill; Farnworth Urban District Council Bill; London County Tramways (No. 2) Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; West Bromwich Corporation Bill, with Amendments.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—

Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords].

Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

BLACKPOOL, ST. ANNE'S, AND LYTHAM TRAMWAYS BILL.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL.

ILFRACOMBE IMPROVEMENT BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (WALES) BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD CORPORATION (WATER) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ROTHERHITHE AND RATCLIFF TUNNEL BILL [Lords].

A verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BUENOS AYRES AND ROSARIO RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

COSTA RICA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, BILL [Lords].

Not amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

IPSWICH CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MUIRKIRK, MAUCHLINE, AND DALMELLINGTON RAILWAYS (ABANDONMENT) BILL [Lords].

Not amended, considered; to be read the third time.

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 211 and 236 be suspended, and that the Committee on the Bill have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

Not amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

WORKINGTON RAILWAYS AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

TRAMWAYS PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 4) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

PETITIONS.

COLLIS, SARAH ELIZA.

Petition of Sarah Eliza Collis, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Wick, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Horsham; Colchester (two); Kingston-on-Thames; and Fulham; to lie upon the Table.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Petition from Plumstead, for legislation, to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (MONMOUTHSHIRE) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Colchester; Yoxford; and Walpole; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND REGISTRY.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th May; *Mr. H. D. Greene*];

to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 306.]

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Return showing the Total Payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year 1899-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2491 and 2492 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Lunacy.—Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1900 [by Act].

CIVIL SERVANTS (RETIREMENT AT THE AGE OF 65).

Copy ordered, "of Treasury Minute, dated the 19th day of July, 1900, stating the circumstances under which certain Civil Servants have been retained in the Service after they have attained the Age of 65, and of the Return therein referred to."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 307.]

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Copy ordered, "of Return of the names, objects, or business, places where business is or was conducted, date of registration, number of persons who signed the Memorandum of Association, total number of shares taken up by such subscribers, nominal capital, number of shares into which it is divided, number of shares taken up, amount of calls made on each share, and the total amount of calls received, of all Joint Stock Companies formed since the 1st day of January, 1899, to the 31st day of December, 1899, inclusive, distinguishing whether the companies are limited or unlimited, and also the number of shareholders in each of the said companies at the date of the last Return, and whether still in operation or being wound up; of the total number having their registered offices in the City of London, or within five miles of the General Post Office; and of the total number and the paid-up capital of all registered companies which are believed to be carrying on business at the present time."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—RECENT NEWS.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Has the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs any news from China?

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): We have no direct news concerning the fate of the Legations, but the following telegrams have been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tientsin, dated July 25th and 27th respectively—

> "July 25th.—It is reported by messenger who failed to deliver letter to Legation that according to what he heard in Peking, no firing on Legation occurred between July 15th and July 19th. He found strong body of troops composed almost entirely of Jung-lu's men all round Legation. He says Chinese are in force at Pei-tsang, that river is blocked there by sunken craft, and that breach in left bank, in order to flood country to eastward, has been made."

> "July 27th.—A letter dated Peking, July 22nd, has been received from Japanese colonel. Since July 17th there had been no firing on Legation."

As to this I notice that greater details are given in the press than have reached Her Majesty's Government.

COMMAND AND COMPOSITION OF THE ALLIED FORCES.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who is to command the allied force for the relief of Peking, and if he can inform the House what is its composition.

Mr. BRODRICK: Owing to the defects in telegraphic communication in China we do not yet know precisely what troops have arrived, and I am not in a position to make any statement as to the command.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is in a position to say that her Majesty's Government have asked, or that a demand has been made by them to the Powers, that the command in chief should be in the hands of a British officer?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question.

PEKING RELIEF EXPEDITION.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the relief force has started for Peking, and, if not, what is the cause of the delay.

MR. BRODRICK: I answered this question on Friday, when I said that no advance to Peking has yet been considered possible by the military authorities, but we understand that preparations for it are now far advanced.

RUSSIAN CONTROL OF THE TA-KU AND TIENTSIN RAILWAY.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that the Russians have assumed the sole control of the railway line from Ta-ku to Tientsin, and beyond to Peking, as the line is restored, and also of the telegraph and telephone.

MR. BRODRICK: At a council of the Admirals, held on July 16th, it was decided that the railway between Ta-ku and Tientsin should be guarded and managed by the Russian forces. We have informed the Russian Government that as this arrangement may be the most convenient in the circumstances we do not wish to raise objection, but that it must be clearly understood that the line will revert to its former management on the termination of the present hostilities.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Are we to understand from the right hon. Gentleman's reply that sailors are still in charge of the land forces in China?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) was understood to ask whether anything had definitely been laid down as to the reversion of the railway.

[No answer was given.]

GERMAN EMPEROR'S SPEECH AT BREMERHAVEN.

DR. TANNER (Cork County, Mid): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the German Emperor's speech at Bremerhaven on the occasion of the embarkation of troops for China, British troops will still be liable to work with German troops; if a German officer receives the command of the allied forces, will British troops serve under him; if the Emperor's speech, as reported, was to the effect that the German soldiers are to take no prisoners and are neither to give nor take quarter; and if it is true that Pope Leo XIII. has expressed his earnest desire that no policy of retaliative vengeance shall be resorted to by the Powers, or be permitted by any Power.

MR. BRODRICK: We have no information as to the German Emperor's speech, and we are not aware whether the report as published in the newspapers accurately represents what His Majesty said. The British troops in China will co-operate with all the allied forces, but no arrangement has been made to put them under the command of a foreign officer.

DR. TANNER: Will inquiry be made?

[No answer was given.]

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—BOER TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS.

MR. JAMES BAILEY (Newington, Walworth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he has any information to the effect that there are nearly two thousand British prisoners at Nooitgedacht, in the Transvaal; that for the past fortnight they have not had meat nor salt, that flour was running short, and that clothing and money were urgently needed; and whether, since communications between our Consul General at Lorenzo Marques and the Boer Commission have ceased, and there are therefore no longer means of reaching the prisoners through Delagoa Bay, the Government are taking any steps to relieve the position or lessen the hardships of the prisoners through other channels.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

*MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has made or is willing to make any and what efforts to procure the friendly offices of the Portuguese Government as a medium of communication with the Boers and their British prisoners of war at Nooitgedacht, and obtaining permission to send to them clothing and medical necessaries, and at least to have information of their welfare, and the names of the living, the sick, and the dead, if any; and, in the alternative, will the Foreign Office move the Portuguese Government to ask Mr. Kruger to name some officer of his own who may be permitted to receive and convey to and from the prisoners letters from and to their friends, open if required, and even subject to censorship.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): If my hon. friend the Member for Wandsworth will allow me, I will answer at the same time the question which he has put down on this subject. As I stated in debate on Friday there is the most earnest desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government to do all that is in their power for the prisoners at Nooitgedacht. Consul General Crowe has made every effort to forward supplies of foods, clothing, and medical comforts to them; and as soon as we received an intimation that the Transvaal Government would no longer receive any communication on the question of the prisoners except from Lord Roberts, a telegram was sent to Lord Roberts asking him to bring pressure to bear on the Transvaal authorities in order to ameliorate the prisoners' condition. That being so, it is not thought advisable to seek the intervention of the Portuguese Government.

LIEUTENANT DANKS, MANCHESTER REGIMENT.

MR. BAINBRIDGE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Lieutenant Danks, of the Manchester Regiment, was mentioned in despatches relating to the battle of Elandslaagte on 21st October, 1899, and that those despatches were not published in the *Gazette* prior to his death, on 31st May, 1900, from the effect of wounds received in that engagement; and, in the case of such a death in a military hospital in England, will he state whose duty it is to inform the relatives of the fact; and is it usual to send any intimation of regret from the War Office.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Lieutenant Danks was not mentioned in despatches. His parents were present at his death, and therefore it was not necessary to send any notification. The person responsible for notifying the death of an officer dying in a military hospital at home is the officer commanding the unit to which the officer was attached on being sent home.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Was not this gentleman mentioned in the report furnished by his colonel?

[No answer was given.]

TREATMENT OF INVALIDED OFFICERS.

MR. BAINBRIDGE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, if an officer invalided home from the seat of war requires the attention of specialists while in a military hospital in England, it is the rule that such advice has to be obtained and paid for by the officer himself or his relatives.

*MR. WYNDHAM: If the medical officer in charge of a patient is of opinion that the assistance of a specialist is required, the cost would be borne by War Department funds.

THE SURRENDER OF GENERAL PRINSLOO'S FORCE.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Can the Under Secretary for War give the House any confirmation of the telegram announcing the surrender of General Prinsloo and a large force of Boers in the Orange River Colony?

*MR. WYNDHAM: The telegram was printed as an official communication from the War Office.

LEGAL ADVISER TO THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether Mr. John Douglas Forster has been appointed legal adviser to the Military Governor of the Transvaal; whether this is the same person who was recently, under the stage name of Adolphus Ellis, manager of a theatrical company in the Transvaal; and what experience of the law he possesses for the important post for which he has been selected.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Nothing is known on this subject at the War Office; but the Secretary of State for the Colonies informs me that Mr. Forster held this post as a temporary arrangement until the appointment of a legal adviser to Lord Roberts, which has now been made.

INVALIDED SOLDIERS IN THE HOME DISTRICT.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if any explanation can be given of the higher ratios being again given against the Home district as regards invaliding, average sick, and constantly sick; and if any medical evidence can affirm and give a reason for the average duration of cases being the highest figures, as in the previous year, both in Woolwich and in the Home district.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No definite reason can be assigned for this.

DR. TANNER: Will the hon. Gentleman inquire into the matter? This is the third year in succession I have put the question.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I do not think there is any other reason except that the Home and Woolwich districts are the more thickly populated.

SALISBURY MANŒUVRES—ENTERIC FEVER.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any medical inquiry has been held upon the cases of enteric fever reported from Cork, Fermoy, and the Cove of Cork, after the return of the men from the manœuvres on Salisbury Plain; and if the plaint of the Army Medical Report will obtain attention this year.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Medical inquiries have been made into all these cases of enteric fever. All representations made in the annual report of the Army Medical Department receive attention; but I am not aware to what particular point the hon. Member refers.

DR. TANNER: Salisbury Plain is not a thickly-populated district, at any rate.

WAR OFFICE CLERK AS COMPANY PROMOTER.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the public inquiry at the Bankruptcy Court on the 16th and 17th inst., in connection with the promotion and failure of the Klondyke and Columbia Goldfields, Limited, with disclosed liabilities £5,737, and no available assets, and with a total deficiency to the creditors and contributaries of £45,855; whether he has observed that Mr. J. Morris Catton stated, on examination on that occasion, that he was the promoter of the company, and was a clerk in the War Office, and had promoted no less than eighteen companies before and after office hours, and that some of these companies were not now in existence, and that he was at the time of the promotion of this particular company on leave through ill-health; whether he is aware that Mr. Catton also carries on the business of advertising agent, under the name of J. Morris and Co., and received payments amounting in all to £1,283 in connection with advertising for this company; what action has been, or will be, taken by the War Office in relation to Mr. Catton's proceedings; what was the certified cause of ill-health under which he obtained sick leave, and was his action as a company promoter in accordance with the rules of the War Office; and is it proposed to retain him in the public service.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Mr. Catton's services in the War Office ceased in December, 1897.

VOLUNTEERS AND RIFLE CLUBS IN IRELAND.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the War Office will take any steps to establish Volunteer corps or rifle clubs in Ireland for the purpose of training in the use of arms the young men of that country, whose services are willingly accepted by the War Office, and have been so highly praised by Her Majesty the Queen.

*MR. WYNDHAM: As has been previously explained to the House, the establishment of Volunteer corps in Ireland is a question of legislation. In regard to rifle clubs the Secretary of State is in correspondence with the Irish Government as to the conditions under which rifle clubs may be formed in Ireland.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: What are the difficulties?

*MR. WYNDHAM: As I understand it, there is in force in Ireland an Act known as the Peace Preservation Act, which prohibits the formation of Volunteer corps. It is a question for the Irish Government whether the Act should be repealed.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: The Members for Ireland would give every facility for repealing it.

KILBRIDE RIFLE RANGE, WICKLOW.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of Roman Catholic officers and soldiers stationed at the Kilbride rifle range, county Wicklow; and how far the nearest Roman Catholic church is from the range; and whether any arrangement has been made to provide the Roman Catholic soldiers stationed at the Kilbride range with the services of a chaplain.

*MR. WYNDHAM: There are only five Roman Catholics among the troops now stationed at Kilbride rifle range. No special arrangements to provide a chaplain for them have been made. There is a Roman Catholic church three miles from the range.

MILITARY AFFRAY AT SPIKE ISLAND.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether an affray took place on 23rd July at Spike Island, Cove of Cork Harbour, between men of the Cork Militia and men of a Dorset Regiment; whether the Dorsets attacked the Cork men for singing Irish patriotic songs, and whether after the Cork men had beaten the Dorsets back into their quarters, the Englishmen were ordered to take down and fix bayonets for the purpose of attacking the unarmed Irish Regiment; whether all the officers were on shore at the Cove, and can he state who was the responsible officer in command; and will the Dorset Regiment be removed without delay, and an inquiry instituted into the alleged proceedings.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The disturbance originated in the canteen. There was stone throwing on both sides, commenced by the Cork Artillery. It was stopped by the non-commissioned officers without calling on the officers. Orders were not given to fix bayonets. All the officers of the Cork Artillery were in barracks and the orderly officer of the Dorsets. The Dorset regiment will not be removed.

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL BOILERS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Clitheroe Division of Lancashire, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he can make any statement as to the constitution of the Committee on Boilers for Her Majesty's ships.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): We have been busily engaged on the constitution of this Committee, but I have not yet received answers to some of the communications I have addressed to various gentlemen.

MR. WOLFF (Belfast, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman inform us whether the Commission will be a paid Commission?

MR. GOSCHEN: It is under consideration. I think, yes. Some gentlemen will be employed from whom we can scarcely claim that they shall give gratuitous service.

BELLEVILLE AND CYLINDRICAL BOILERS—COMPARATIVE COAL CONSUMPTION.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty has he any official information to the effect that during the preliminary cruise preceding the Naval Manœuvres now proceeding the cylindrical boiler ship "St. George" used 383 tons of coal, while the Belleville boiler ship "Ariadne" used 800 tons; can he give any explanation of the fact that the Belleville boiler ship consumed twice as much coal as the cylindrical boiler ship; and were the two ships making the same voyage in the same squadron at the same speed; and, if not, what was the difference between their respective voyages, speeds, and distances run.

MR. GOSCHEN: I have no information to the effect suggested by the hon. Gentleman. The Admiralty have received, as yet, no report upon the movements of the cruisers named during the preliminary cruise, nor as to the coal burnt.

NAVAL MEDICAL OFFICERS.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if the long-promised concession in favour of naval medical officers which was stated some months ago to be settled for immediate working, namely, giving medical officers the opportunity of visiting and studying at Metropolitan hospitals for a period of from three to six months on return from a long term of foreign service on full pay, is now working; and, if so, how many officers have availed themselves of the concession.

MR. GOSCHEN: Naval medical officers have for many years past been permitted to pass through a post-graduate course at Metropolitan hospitals. The number allowed has, by the regulations of the 1st November last, been increased from seven to twenty annually, but, owing to the despatch of a considerable number of naval medical officers to the Cape and China, it has not yet been found possible to allow this increase to take effect.

DR. TANNER: Will the right hon. Gentleman kindly grant a Return for the information of those on whose behalf I have put the question?

MR. GOSCHEN: I will look into the matter if the hon. Member will put it down.

ROUMANIA—PERSECUTION OF JEWS.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the attention of the Foreign Office has been drawn to the continued persecution of the Jewish population in Roumania, and the denial to them of civil and political rights; and if the Roumanian Government has been reminded that their conduct in these matters is contrary to the Treaty of Berlin.

***MR. BRODRICK**: Reports have appeared in the European press that the emigration of Jews from Roumania which has recently taken place has been caused by the illtreatment of the Jews by the authorities, but according to the information received by Her Majesty's Government there are no good grounds for this statement. It is understood that the Jews in Roumania are not naturalised, but no complaints have reached Her Majesty's Government, and consequently no representations have been made by them to the Roumanian Government on the subject.

THAMES AND SEVERN CANAL.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if any public local inquiry was held by the Board of Trade in regard to an application made by the Gloucestershire County Council for a warrant authorising the abandonment, under The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, of the Thames and Severn Canal prior to the issue of the said warrant, and why a notice of the issue of the abandonment warrant and of a Provisional Order embodying a scheme for the acquisition and management of the Thames and Severn Canal by the Gloucestershire County Council was not sent to the Wiltshire County Council, which, by the terms of The Thames and Severn Canal Act, 1895, is one of the guarantors of the revenue of the canal, and why that Council was thus deprived of any adequate opportunity of satisfying itself that the scheme of management as issued was not inconsistent with the conditions of their resolution of assent to an application for abandonment; and, seeing that immediately after the published general notice inserted in the Gloucestershire newspapers of the issue of the abandonment warrant and Provisional Order in the latter part of June, a Provisional Order Confirmation Bill was introduced by the Board of Trade into the House of Lords, and was thrown out on 5th July as not complying with the Standing Orders of that House in regard to time, he will state whether the Board of Trade satisfied themselves that the regulations as to the making of applications and the conduct of proceedings referred to in paragraph 45 (8) of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, were adequately complied with, and if it is to be understood that abandonment warrants may in future be issued without a public local inquiry, and whether he is aware that since the issue of the warrant notice of opposition has been given to the Provisional Order Confirmation Bill by a landowner who complains that he had no opportunity of being heard before the matter was decided.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): No local inquiry was held in this case, as no objections to the scheme, which had been fully advertised, has been received. The Wiltshire County Council passed resolutions, which they communicated to the Board of Trade, that, subject to certain conditions, they did not object to the warrant or the Provisional Order. As these conditions were given effect to no notice to the county council appeared to be necessary. Notice was given of a motion to suspend the Sessional Order to allow of the introduction of a Bill to confirm the Provisional Order, but upon objection being raised the motion was withdrawn, and the Bill was not introduced. The Board of Trade are satisfied that the provisions of the Act were complied with in this instance, but the question of the necessity of holding a local inquiry is one that must depend upon the circumstances of each case. I am not aware of any notice of objection or complaint on the part of a landowner on the ground that he had no opportunity of being heard.

VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if the Reports of the Departmental Committee on the organisation of the Victoria Museum and the Royal College of Art can be issued as a Parliamentary Paper.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): These Reports are of a confidential character, and cannot be laid before Parliament.

CONTROL OF EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS—TRANSFER TO THE EDUCATION BOARD.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether a statement will be laid upon the Table this session explaining the general effect of the draft Order in Council by which certain powers of the Charity Commissioners in regard to educational endowments in England are to be made exercisable by the Board of Education, and indicating the classes of questions which under that Order will have to be referred by governing bodies to the Charity Commissioners and to the Board of Education respectively.

SIR J. GORST: Yes, such a statement is now being prepared, and will be laid on the Table before the end of the session.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD—HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the London School Board have applied for the recognition of 79 out of 932 senior departments of their schools as higher elementary schools; whether the Board of Education has replied to the School Board for London in reference to each school; whether, if they are not prepared to agree to any particular school, they will state the ground for declining, whether it be a sufficient supply of such accommodation in the neighbourhood or the character and range of the curriculum; and whether they will give the School Board for London an opportunity for submitting reasons in support of each application to which objection is taken.

SIR J. GORST: The application of the London School Board was for seventy-nine departments in block, and the answer of the Board of Education was general. An application for any specific school would be considered separately and a specific answer given. But the schools in question do not seem to be of the type to which the grants of the higher elementary schools Minute would be applicable.

POSTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

MR. BAINBRIDGE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the fact that the periodic journals of scientific societies do not enjoy the same postal rates as are granted to weekly publications registered as newspapers (the cost incurred on the former being a tax on the dissemination of valuable and useful knowledge by scientific societies, and detrimental to the advancement of scientific industries), the Postmaster General will consider the advisability of arranging that the postage on publications of scientific societies shall be at the same rates as are in force for registered newspapers.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): It is estimated that the concession in the matter of postage which has been accorded to newspapers results in a loss to the Post Office revenue, and in these circumstances the Postmaster General would not feel justified in taking steps for extending the concession to other publications. The hon. Member might perhaps be interested by reading, if he has not already done so, a Report made by a Departmental Committee and presented to Parliament in January, 1897, on the question of extending the newspaper post. (House of Commons Paper, No. 39 of 1897.)

SOUTHAMPTON CUSTOMS HOUSE.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state when the new Customs House at Southampton, the site for which was acquired in 1898, will be commenced.

MR. HANBURY: The works will be begun in October or November next.

KILMORE PIER (WEXFORD) BREAKWATER.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the breakwater at Kilmore Pier, in county Wexford, which was constructed under the supervision of the Board of Works, has been certified as improperly executed by the Government contractor, and the breakwater not erected in the position originally determined upon; if he is aware that the breakwater is now in ruins; if this breakwater has been paid for by a free grant, or by a loan for which the ratepayers of the district are liable; and whether he will have inquiry made into the circumstances of the case.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The breakwater at Kilmore Pier was certified to have been completed to the satisfaction of the engineer to the Board of Works and of the county surveyor, and no certificate was given that the work was improperly executed. It was erected in the position shown on the approved plans. The board are not aware that the breakwater is in ruins, as stated. Some damage was found to exist early last year, and the board at once reminded the county authorities of their responsibility to repair the damage. The cost of the breakwater was met by a free grant of £5,838 and a loan charged on the barony of £1,946 with interest. A further inspection will be made by the board for the purpose of securing, if necessary, the execution of works of maintenance by the county, on whom the responsibility in this respect lies.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION—MANUSCRIPTS OF THE IRISH FRANCISCANS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the manuscripts of the Irish Franciscans will be published as promised by the Historical Manuscripts Commission in the course of this year.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed that the manuscripts will shortly be ready for publication.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT IN IRELAND.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Mayo, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what sum during the past twelve months has been paid over to the Board of Trade from fines recovered in Ireland, under the Weights and Measures Act, and what sum has been expended by the Board of Trade in the training at the Constabulary Depôt in Dublin of inspectors under the Weights and Measures Act.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. No portion of the fines recovered in Ireland under the Weights and Measures Act is paid over to the Board of Trade. All such fines, except in cases where one-third of the penalty is awarded to the prosecutor, are payable to the Crown, pursuant to the thirteenth section of 14 and 15 Vict. c. 90. The application of fines accounted for under this enactment is shown in the Returns annually laid before Parliament. A sum of £100 per annum is paid to the Board of Trade out of fees for the verification of standards under Section 19 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1889, to meet the expenses incurred by that Department in Ireland, including the holding of examinations at the Constabulary Depôt by officers of the Board of Trade. The expenses of members of the constabulary attending the depôt are not paid by that Department, but out of the verification fees.

DERRY AND DONEGAL STEAMERS—SUBSIDY TO MR. HERDMAN.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a subsidy has been granted by the Congested Districts Board to Mr. John Herdman, of Sion Mills, Strabane, who is the owner of steamers trading from Derry to the north-west ports of Donegal, with a view to a reduction in the rate of freight; and if he will state what has been the amount of the subsidy and the proportionate reduction in the rate of freight.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: A subsidy of £600 per annum for three years from the 1st July, 1898, has been granted to Mr. Herdman, trading as the Donegal Steamship Company. The object of the Congested Districts Board in granting the subsidy was to secure an efficient service on the Donegal coast at reasonable freights, and not to effect a reduction in freights.

SPIDDAL FAIR.

MR. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the municipal authorities of Galway city levy a toll per head on cattle purchased at the fairs in Spiddal, which is some ten miles outside of the municipal boundary of Galway; and can he state by what authority this charge is exacted, and how long it has been in force; and if it is not a legal charge, will he take any steps to put a stop to its exaction.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed by the town clerk of Galway that no tolls of any kind are levied by the municipal authorities at fairs in Spiddal. A toll of twopence per head is, however, levied on cattle passing through the toll gaps of the town of Galway, regardless of where they come from, under the authority of Section 42 of the Galway Town Improvement Act, 1853.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE—TALLOW BRANCH.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for what reason did the police at Tallow, county Waterford, tear down posters issued by the committee of the Tallow branch of the United Irish League, announcing that a meeting of the committee would be held on Sunday, 22nd July, at the committee rooms, to consider the question of issuing cards for the coming year.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Only one such poster was taken down. It was taken down because the constable who removed it attached to the notice an importance which it did not deserve.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman mention any single case of crime or outrage in Tallow since this branch of the League was established?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That hardly arises out of the question.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: The question refers especially to the League.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: There was a notorious case of boycotting.

DR. TANNER: Has the constable been rewarded?

[No answer was given.]

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY — LODGING ALLOWANCES.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the allowance for lodging money made to married head constables, sergeants, and constables in the Royal Irish Constabulary is the same, and what allowance is made to warders and assistant warders in the prison service for the same purpose.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. The allowance to warders whose families cannot be accommodated with prison quarters is £1 10s. per month in certain towns and £1 3s. 6d. in other towns. This allowance is inclusive of fuel and light. There is no such rank as assistant warder in the prison service.

R.I.C. DEPOT—OFFICE OF BARRACK-MASTER.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a vacancy has arisen in the position of barrack master at the Royal Irish Constabulary depôt; whether he can state how many, and what proportion of, staff appointments in the Royal Irish Constabulary are held by Roman Catholics; and whether, in view of the small number of such appointments held by Roman Catholics, the present vacancy created by the retirement of a Roman Catholic will be filled by a Roman Catholic.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. Of the officers' staff at the Constabulary depôt, the adjutant, musketry instructor, veterinary surgeon, police instructor, and the medical assistant to the surgeon are Roman Catholics. The commandant, riding master, and surgeon are Protestants. The officer selected to fill the vacancy in the barrack mastership has been chosen from among the senior district inspectors as being the best qualified for the office and as having the strongest claims by police service for the appointment, irrespective of religion. He is a Protestant.

LAND ACT RETURNS.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any Return of estates prepared in relation to proceedings under Section 40 of the Land Act of 1896, subsequent to the third Return, has yet been presented to the Land Judge; and, if so, whether the same will be laid upon the Table and printed in the same manner as the previous Returns.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The fourth Return of estates referred to has been prepared, and will be laid on the Table of the House in the course of the present week.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS—RETIREMENT REGULATIONS.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have decided in the case of any existing officer, who was not sixty years of age on the appointed day under the Local Government Board (Ireland) Act, 1898, that he was not entitled on his retirement through ill-health or otherwise to a pension according to the Civil Service scale, where it was refused by the local authorities.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The schoolmaster of the Longford Workhouse inquired if he would be entitled to a superannuation allowance on retirement, his age being fifty-five years. He was informed by the Local Government Board that a union officer cannot claim a pension under Section 118 of the Act of 1898 unless he was sixty years of age on the appointed day, and had on that date completed twenty years poor law service. The provisions of the Union Officers' Superannuation Acts apply as heretofore to the grant of pensions to officers who do not fall within the terms of Section 118 of the Act of 1898, and it rests with the guardians to determine whether they would grant him a pension and the amount of such allowance, under the former Acts.

COUNTESS OF LEITRIM'S ESTATE—CASE OF MICHAEL HOLOHAN.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Land Commission can explain why, in the case Michael Holohan, tenant, Countess of Leitrim, landlady, tried at the Sub-Commission at Ballyconnell, on the 24th November last, an abatement of £1 2s. 9d. was allowed in the rent for reclamation, although the tenant proved he had expended £400 on this work, and whether he is aware that the tenant was rented on an acreage of 79a. 3r. 36p., although he only holds 77a. 0r. 30p., and what redress it is proposed to allow the tenant in this case.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: In the case to which the question presumably refers, the judicial rent was fixed by the Sub-Commissioners after hearing the evidence offered by the landlord and tenant. The Order of the Sub-Commissioners had been appealed against by both parties, and this being so the Land Commissioners decline to make any observations upon a case at present before them for judicial decision.

CORK INLAND REVENUE OFFICES.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether new premises have yet been taken for the offices of the Inland Revenue Department in Cork; and, if so, when the change to them will be made.

Mr. HANBURY: The conveyance of the new premises to the Board of Works is on the point of completion. Some alterations will be necessary before they can be opened to the public; but the necessary plans have been already prepared, and every effort will be made to carry them out speedily.

CORK POST OFFICE.

Dr. TANNER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, how soon will the newly acquired site adjoining the public office in Pembroke Street, Cork, be ready, and will it correspond architecturally with the old post office in Pembroke Street or with the one in George Street.

Mr. HANBURY: The additional ground acquired for the enlargement of the Cork Post Office is in the hands of the contractor who is working at the foundations. The new buildings will correspond architecturally with the old post office in George Street.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Will the Leader of the House state the course of business for this week.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The Bill of my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be introduced to-night in Committee of Ways and Means. As I have before suggested to the House, I think it would be most convenient to take the discussion on the Second Reading, and if that is understood I will put the Second Reading down as the first Order on Wednesday. It is very important that the House should make progress with the Companies Bill, and I hope that immediately after the resolution has been taken in Ways and Means the House will continue with that Bill to-night and to-morrow until it is finished. After that the Military Lands Bill and the Money-lending Bill are the chief measures the House will have to deal with. When I was asked for facilities for private Members' Bills, I said that those which were really wholly unopposed should be starred according to practice and become Government measures. I have endeavoured to make out what these Bills are. First, there is the Ancient Monuments Protection (North Wales) Bill. Then there is the Tramways (Ireland) Bill, and if, as I understand, there is not to be any discussion on that Bill, there is no reason why it should not be starred. There are two other Bills which have not reached their Second Reading—the Diocesan Registration Bill and the Members of Local Authorities Relief Bill. If these Bills are opposed, they will *ipso facto* be lost, but I have not heard of any opposition to them as yet. Then there is the Copyright Bill, which has been very earnestly pressed upon my attention by gentlemen on both sides of the House, and which I believe is important in connection with certain discussions between Her Majesty's Government and Canada. I should be very glad if that Bill could pass, and if it is unopposed it may have a chance. That Bill has not reached its Second Reading, and it is evident that it is in great peril, but I would not like its chance to be entirely destroyed at this instant.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I believe that a private Bill which will give rise to considerable discussion is to be taken this week. If it is put down for Thursday it would be something between a calamity and a scandal, because Thursday is the last day upon which Supply is to be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As the House knows, I have no control over the arrangements which the promoters of private Bills think fit to adopt.

Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): Will the Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, now before the House of Lords, be starred?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware of the position of that Bill. If it has passed through this House, I think it would be very proper to star it, unless the Lords Amendments are of a kind to convert it into a controversial measure.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS AND OTHERS) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland) Bill and Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill, with Amendments.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 316.]

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT (1890) AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 317.]

WAYS AND MEANS.

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

INTERCEPTION OF PUBLIC REVENUE.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I have to intervene for a short time in order to raise a question which is important constitutionally, since it affects the powers of this House. Let me state at once what my grievance is. It is that, instead of the whole of the receipts for the public accounts being paid into the Exchequer, as much as £18,000,000 of public money, or nearly that amount, never reaches the Exchequer, and does not appear in the revenue and expenditure accounts. The effect of this is to falsify the accounts, to prevent comparison with former years before this practice was adopted, and to seriously impair the control of this House over public expenditure, inasmuch as this money escapes being annually voted. When I put the motion down the Chancellor of the Exchequer said I had taken an unprecedented course. But even if that be so. I assert that the act is not unjustifiable, This practice of deception is only eighteen years old, but it is growing to such an extent that even an unprecedented course is justified in order to call attention to it. As regards Supply, there is only one Amendment to be put on the motion that you, Mr. Speaker, leave the Chair, and the subject must be restricted to Supply, but when the House proposes to go into Committee of Ways and Means any number of Amendments may be moved, and you sometimes get as many as fifteen or sixteen, embracing all sorts of subjects, from conventual institutions down to the misdeeds of income-tax collectors. There is, in fact, no subject barred, and when, in 1861, a Committee sat on the business of the House, it avowedly refused to restrict this right of moving Amendments on going into Committee of Ways and Means, on the ground that it was a legitimate opportunity for the introduction of discussions on a wide variety of subjects. The rule itself, too, was enlarged so late as 1891, when the Standing Order was so amended as to allow Amendments on your leaving the Chair to be moved not only with regard to Ways and Means, but also with regard to a new subject—the Committee on East India accounts. That motion was received with favour by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire and by the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education on behalf of the Government. I trust, therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not be angered with me for taking this very first opportunity of drawing the attention of the House to this extremely important subject, especially as I promise to endeavour to compress my remarks into as small a space as possible. The last Return on the subject for which I moved has been made up to 31st March last. It shows that the following public moneys are not paid into the Exchequer:—Customs, £204,000; Excise, £5,000,000; estate duties, £4,200,000. The total is £9,251,160. Then there come the appropriations-in-aid. These are sums which formerly naturally went into the Exchequer, but which, in consequence of the modern system introduced in 1891, the Departments are themselves allowed to take in diminution of the amount they ask the House to grant for these expenses. These amount to £6,700,000, in addition to which there are certain payments which the Departments make of their receipts—the Post Office being the chief offender—amounting to £1,575,000. Consequently, the £9,521,160, the £1,575,242, and the £6,702,776 amount altogether to £17,799,178, and that is the sum to which my complaint refers. I am afraid I cannot dispense with a short history of the matter, and I will begin with the appropriations-in-aid. The House will observe that, roughly speaking, one-half the amount consists of appropriations-in-aid and payments out of the revenue by Departments and the other half of sums intercepted from the tax-collector and paid over to the Local Taxation Account. First, as to the appropriations-in-aid. Before 1810, when old naval stores were sold, they were charged with pensions and all sorts of payments. In 1810 an Act was passed to prevent that, and as regards the Navy the right principle was for the first time asserted. Every receipt, whether from old stores or any other quarter, was thenceforward paid into the Exchequer, and the Vote for the Navy included the total amount expended by the Navy, and not the amount less appropriations-in-aid. At that time and until many years later the collecting or revenue Departments of the State—in fact every Department that ever got any money into its hands other than by Vote of Parliament—were accustomed to pay their own expenses, only the balance going into the Exchequer. In 1831 the Commissioners of Public Accounts drew attention to this great abuse, and in their first Report dealt with the larger question of the payment of the gross revenue to the Exchequer, which involved the voting of the charges for the collection and management of the public revenue, which at that time were paid out of the revenue collected, and the net revenue only was accounted for to the Exchequer.

> "The Commissioners considered that no branch of administration should be permitted to dispose of any other funds than those specially voted for its service by Parliament"

—these £18,000,000 are not specially voted for its service by Parliament—

> "and that all public moneys should be paid in the first instance to the Exchequer."

That is what my resolution reaffirms. That was not the last time the matter received attention. In 1848 the House passed a resolution almost identical with that which I am now moving. This is the resolution of 13th May, 1848—

> "That this House cannot be the effectual guardian of the revenues of the State unless the whole amount of the taxes and the various other sources of income received from the public accounts be either paid in or accounted for to the Exchequer."

That, as the House will see, is practically the same as the resolution I submit to-day. It embodied the only true and safe principle of public accounts, and the Treasury of that day, foreseeing no doubt what the resolution was that would be passed by the House, had a few days before made a Minute to the effect of that Resolution, namely, that all extra receipts should be paid into the Exchequer. They directed that the Government Departments of public expenditure should thenceforward submit their annual Estimates to Parliament without the deductions on account of appropriations-in-aid, that Votes should be asked for the whole of the sums required for the naval and military services, and that the extra receipts should be paid to the Exchequer and be appropriated in the same manner as other moneys appropriated to the Consolidated Fund. That was the resolution of 1848, and it was carried out in 1849. From then the right system prevailed and lasted until 1881. The principle was reaffirmed in 1857, when the Select Committee on Public Money said this—

> "Although the Acts 17 and 18 Vic., c. 94, and 19 and 20 Vic., c. 59, have removed from the public revenues the charges of collection and management of hereditary and other pensions charged thereon, and the gross revenues are consequently now paid to the Consolidated Fund, yet it is considered that there is no security that the Government may not order payments unauthorised by Parliament to be made out of those revenues before they are transferred to the Consolidated Fund."

It was the suspicion of this Committee on Public Moneys that the Government might order unauthorised payments. I do not pretend to have such a suspicion now, but in 1857 it was at the bottom of the Committee's minds, and they therefore said—

> ". . . it is essential to a complete Parliamentary control of the public money that no part of it should be arrested in its progress to the fund for which alone it can be issued and applied with Parliamentary sanction. It is therefore suggested that it may be provided by law that the gross receipts of the Customs, Inland Revenue, and Post Office Departments, after providing thereout for the payment of drawbacks, bounties, repayments, and discounts, shall be paid or transferred to the account of the Consolidated Fund at the Bank of England and Bank of Ireland."

That suggestion of the Committee was carried out, and in 1866 the "Exchequer and Audit Departments Act," which was a renewed and most solemn affirmation and enactment of the right principle, was passed. By that Act it was provided that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, of Customs, and the Postmaster General, should pay their gross receipts to the Exchequer—the principle I am now contending for. I would also call attention to the opinion on this subject of a very eminent official of this House—namely, Sir Erskine May, who in 1879 said—

> "The propriety of presenting the accounts of public income and expenditure in a correct and intelligible form is universally admitted. They should exhibit, beyond the reach of misunderstanding, the total burthens upon the people, and the actual cost of each Department of the State. Formerly the system of accounts was such as to keep out of sight a considerable portion of the gross receipts and expenditure."

That is what I charge against the present system.

> "The charges of collection were deducted from the gross revenue, and fees and other extra receipts were appropriated from the payment of the salaries of several departments, the balance only being defrayed by Parliamentary grants. The gross amounts of income and expenditure were thus apparently reduced——"

Yes, that is the object—to make government appear to be cheaper than it is—

> "while large sums were withdrawn from the direct control of Parliament, and a wide financial discretion was left to the Departments."

Then he goes on to tell the story I have just related to the House—that this system was objected to and a remedy found. It was about this time the Treasury first conceived the plan of extending the appropriations-in-aid. Sir Erskine May was not wholly opposed to that, but he attached the very remarkable condition that if the appropriations-in-aid were to be deducted from the gross Estimates, at any rate this House should vote the gross Estimates, and the amended sums be provided in Committee of Ways and Means. He said—

> "If the proposed scheme were adopted, the gross expenditure would still be voted."

My complaint now is that the gross expenditure is not voted. The House votes the net expenditure, and it has no control whatever over the remainder except that it may remark upon the appropriations-in-aid themselves which make the difference between the net and the gross expenditure. Thus from 1810 to 1879 the right way was sought and followed, but the Memorandum of Sir Erskine May to which I have just referred may almost be said to have been the song of the dying swan of finance, for almost immediately after the Treasury with, I am sorry to say, the agreement—though not, I think, the whole agreement—of the Public Accounts Committee, suggested the new method, which has been in operation almost ever since. The reasons of the Treasury were these. In the Minute of 27th June, 1881, they state with regard to the extra receipts that—

> "The payment of a large proportion of these receipts into the Exchequer, and the consequent voting or re-voting which they represent have the effect of over-stating both the public revenue and the expenditure, or, as the public understand it, the taxation of the country and the cost of government."

Not at all. Those are two entirely different things. Taxation and expenditure are one thing; the burdens of the country are another. Receipts are receipts, from whatever source they are received; expenditure is expenditure, for whatever purpose it is incurred. Your receipts may be one sum, and your taxation another. You may come, as it were, into a fortune; you may inherit a large death duty, which may enable you to make your taxation less, but nevertheless that is all receipt, and it seems to me that the Treasury confuse expenditure and revenue with what is quite a different thing—namely, the burden of taxation on the people. However, that is the reason they gave. They said, further, that it would involve re-voting. But that is a necessary incident of our system of accounts. The national system of accounts is a strict and annual cash account, and therefore when you have cash to be expended in the course of the year, and you have not expended it, it must go over to the next year, and the next year if you want to expend it it must be re-voted. So long as you hold to your system of an annual cash account without a balance brought forward, and without a balance carried forward, so long must you either spend what you have in the year or re-vote it. This very Treasury Minute recognises the true principle while proceeding to violate it. It says—

> "Every penny coming into the hands of a Department is to come under the view and control of Parliament."

But then it recommended the system which we now have, by which many many pennies are taken out of the control of Parliament, and that system was adopted. This wrong system, therefore, was adopted so recently as 1882, and its extension has been so enormous in the eighteen years since then that appropriations-in-aid now amount to eight and a half millions. Now I come to the effect on this House. Of all these appropriations-in-aid not one penny appears in what is called the Revenue Account. When my right hon. friend rises to make his statement, what he deals with is what he calls the receipts of the Exchequer. No part of this £18,000,000 appears in these Exchequer receipts. Again I say that every penny of those appropriations-in-aid escape all control by this House. When I asserted that fact once before in October last in a question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he thought the statement was too broad. I should like the right hon. Gentleman to explain how it is too broad. I got a considered answer to a question which I put on this point to the Chairman of Committees, by whom I was told that the appropriations-in-aid were not grants made in this House, but were made under the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, by the authority which the Treasury exercised under that Act. I was told that we could not touch a penny of them, and that "the Committee, in voting the net sum, sanctions the expenditure of the gross sum." Therefore, we are entirely without any control over it. I do not think my right hon. friend will now dispute my point, although he seemed to doubt it when I first suggested it. I think it is absolutely true. Now I come to my second head, which is the interception of taxes for the purpose of being paid over to the Local Taxation Account. These taxes amounted in 1898-99 to £9,521,160 and in 1899-1900 to £9,916,825, or close upon £10,000,000, which is taken away from the taxes collected on their way to the Exchequer, and handed over to the Local Taxation Account for local purposes. This plan is only twelve years old, for it was in 1888 that the new method of intercepting these taxes was first initiated in connection with the Local Taxation Act of that year. It was never contemplated then that the total would reach £10,000,000, and the present First Lord of the Admiralty at that time estimated it at £5,500,000. Part of the increase is due, I know, to some extent to the Agricultural Rates Act of 1896, but there has also been an increase in other portions of the grant. If you want to make gifts or doles to local governing bodies you should make it a certain fixed annual sum. It is one of the vices of this system that the local people never know what they are going to get and we never know what we shall have to pay. It is, therefore, bad in principle. It is contrary to the resolution of 1848, which provided that all the revenue should go into the Exchequer, and I believe that to be the only sound principle. It is opposed to the Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866, which enacted that all gross receipts should go into the Exchequer. This alteration was made in 1888, and I think the House is more to blame for agreeing to this change than the Treasury or the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day. In 1888 the House tore up the resolution of 1848 and destroyed in all its essence the Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866. Since then, interception of a new kind has gone on, and what I want the House to know is that again and again the Department have attempted to get control over the money over which this House should have control; again and again this House has resisted them and re-established the principle upon which the money should be dealt with. It is only during the last eighteen years that this attempt has grown up, and as a student of finance I invite the House to affirm the true principle and say that all this money should go to the Exchequer. Under the present system this money escapes every one of the safeguards which this House and the wisdom of our ancestors has devised in dealing with public money. You do not need a Minister to propose an interception of this sort, for it may be proposed by any private Member. I often expect to find an hon. Member from Ireland standing up to propose that several millions shall be intercepted in order to support some excellent Irish agricultural scheme. It escapes the Committee, and there need be no resolution in Committee. It is not subject to an annual grant by Parliament, and is not subject to annual review, but once done it remains a perpetual first charge, not definite and fixed, but of varying amount. This second head of interception by Act of Parliament for Local Taxation account is much worse than the first head, because appropriations-in-aid, although they cannot be touched by Parliament, yet they can be discussed on

Estimates; but the interceptions that are made out of the Customs, Excise, and Death duties for Local Taxation cannot even be discussed. The appropriations-in-aid appear in the Appropriation Bill, and there again they may be discussed, although I believe that the rule of the House is that no Amendment can be moved, but the interceptions for Local Taxation do not appear in the Appropriation Bill at all—they are permanently charged by a permanent Act. In this way control over nearly £10,000,000 has gone from us for ever. I will not enter upon the objections that might be made with regard to the system of sops and doles, and gifts to local authorities from the Imperial Revenue. I think they lead to local extravagance and waste, and often do more harm than good. That is not part of my argument to-day. My argument to-day is that it is essentially wrong, false finance, and essentially mischievous to intercept any portion of the public revenues from coming to the Exchequer; and if this is done as it is done to-day to the tune of £18,000,000, I think the time has come when some attention should be paid to it. This House should remember that this is £1,500,000 more than the whole of Mr. Pitt's revenue in 1792, which was £16,500,000. Therefore we are withdrawing from the financial control of this House a sum larger than the whole of the national revenue of 1792, and I do not think that I need make any apology for drawing the attention of the House to this question. I am sorry for having detained the House so long, but I am approaching the end of my remarks. The result of this system is to falsify the accounts and prevent a fair comparison. How can you compare the accounts in which £18,000,000 are omitted with the accounts for years when no such omission has taken place? I think I am right when I say that the constitutional theory as to finance is that there should be annual grants in Committee of Supply; that we should annually find the money in Committee of Ways and Means; and that all the money so found shall be paid into the Exchequer and only be capable of being taken out by Act of Parliament; and finally that we should have annual accounts. I hold that if you touch any part of that system you destroy the whole. What I feel most strongly of all is that you destroy the control of Parliament. Let me dwell for a moment on this question of national accounts. There are various methods. In France they treat each year as though it were a separate entity, and whatever expenditure belongs to the year, whether contracted before or after, comes into that year. That is not our case, for we have deliberately adopted the system of an annual cash account in which no balance is brought forward and from which no balance is carried forward. No doubt this has its defects. It might, perhaps, with advantage be supplemented with a national balance-sheet. You would have to put on one side many assets, including the Suez Canal shares, and on the other not only your national debts, but also your liabilities to foreign countries, which are very enormous. This makes the present situation more serious than it otherwise would be. I want once more to point out to the Committee that this Interception of Revenue is not an ancient abuse or a well-considered method, but it is entirely new. The first appropriation-in-aid began in 1882, and it is now £8,500,000. The first interception for local taxation began in 1888, and it is now nearly £10,000,000. My contention shortly is that all these sums ought to be paid into the Exchequer, and what I fear is that unless some attention be called to this matter, as I have endeavoured to do, this system will go on as it has been going on, increasing to a large extent, and the result will be that the Minister will have at his disposal a large sum entirely independent of Parliamentary control. As I have said, the House may justly be blamed for this, but Parliament did not foresee that it would grow to such an extent when it adopted this system. I affirm that all public money should be paid, in the first instance, into the Exchequer, because it is essential for a complete Parliamentary control of that public money that no portion of it should be arrested in its progress to that fund from which alone it can be issued and applied with Parliamentary sanction. I affirm the propriety of presenting the accounts of public income and expenditure in a correct and intelligible form, and finally I affirm the resolution of 1848, which declares—

> "That this House cannot be the effectual guardian of the revenues of the State unless the whole amount of the taxes and of various other sources of income received for the public accounts be either paid in or accounted for to the Exchequer."

Hon. Members may think that this is merely a question of accounts, that the money does not get embezzled, and that it is all spent on the State. It is much more than that. It is a question of the power, the authority, and the duty of this House. Every halfpenny of this £18,000,000—it will soon, I think, be £20,000,000—ought to be controlled by this House. Let me beg the House to remember that it is the control of the purse that has made this House what it is, and can keep it what it is. This House has no power to make peace or war, or to make treaties, but as long as it holds the purse-strings it will remain one of the most potent bodies in the British Empire—aye, in the world. But if the House is content to part with its control over large sums of money, then I say it is parting with the most important of its duties and the greatest of its powers. I move, Sir.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I rise to second the motion, and will only say that I think a few words from the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the somewhat complex machinery by which our financial arrangements are regulated would be appreciated by the House.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, 'this House cannot be the effectual guardian of the revenues of the State unless the whole amount of the taxes and duties and of all other receipts received for the public account be paid into the Exchequer,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Mr. Speaker, I do not deny the importance of this subject, but I think the House will agree that a more unsuitable occasion for bringing it under our notice could hardly have been selected. We are within a few days of the end of the session, when the time of the House is particularly valuable, and it was generally expected that the earlier part of the evening would be devoted to another subject. In and out of season during the last five years the hon. Member has brought the matter before the House, and his own opinion of the urgency of the motion is best shown by the fact that he allowed it to remain on the Notice Paper of the House for more than four months without moving it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I could not move it before.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I have been puzzled to understand what, under such circumstances, could have been the motive of the hon. Member in bringing forward this matter to-night, but in the earlier portion of his speech the hon. Member explained his motive, and it appeared to be this: that it was desirable to reassert a forgotten principle. For nearly the whole of the last forty years there has been no occasion on which an Amendment has been moved on the motion that the Speaker do leave the Chair on going into Committee of Way and Means; but the hon. Member, with his accustomed ingenuity, has discovered that, though preventing such motions on going into Committee of Supply, the House omitted to deal with them on Committee of Ways and Means, and I trust that the House will take the earliest opportunity of remedying that defect. I do not complain of the hon. Member for exercising what no doubt is his technical right—[MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Technical!]—but I shall be excused if I deal with the motion very shortly indeed. The hon. Member said a good deal about what he considered to be the iniquity of intercepting the revenue for the purpose of the Local Taxation Account. Parliament deliberately did that by the Act of 1888 and subsequent Acts, and neither the Treasury nor any resolution of the House can interfere with those Acts, or alter the practice established by Parliament. It may be right or wrong—I am not going to argue that now—but it is one of the subjects which is under the consideration of the Local Taxation Commission, and when that Commission reports will, undoubtedly, be the time for the House to consider any recommendation which may be made in regard to it. But the main part of the hon. Member's speech was devoted to the appropriation of extra receipts in diminution of the gross expenditure of the Department to which they belong. The hon. Member attached great importance to certain opinions which were expressed and resolutions arrived at in past days, but he attached no importance at all to the result of the later consideration which altered the practice which it was found impossible to continue, and established the practice which now prevails. What are the extra receipts the appropriation of which by the several departments to which they are paid is so unjustifiable in the view of the hon. Member? They are moneys incidentally realised or recovered by Departments in the process of conducting the services charged on Imperial funds, and they are of all kinds. They are payments from India or the colonies for military or other charges, or for stores or war materials supplied, with which we have nothing whatever to do. They may be proceeds of sales of old Admiralty or military stores, or they may be receipts from fees, fines, penalties, rents or tolls, or they may be payments for coinage from our colonies, or receipts from Government publications. What happened in regard to them? For a long time, while the resolution referred to by the hon. Member was in force, there was no uniform practice in regard to those receipts. They were, in some cases, paid into the Exchequer; in other cases they were treated as transfers between Votes without appearing in the appropriation accounts; in other cases they were applied by the Department which received them in diminution of their expenditure without any regular authority or proper financial control; and the result of that was that about the period at which the hon. Member ended—in the early seventies—the Comptroller and Auditor General called the attention of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons to the want of uniformity of practice with a view to a remedy being provided, and the Public Accounts Committee, in their turn, called the attention of the Treasury to the matter. A Treasury Departmental Committee sat on the subject in 1876 and 1877, and the result of their inquiry was a scheme, which was framed by the late Lord Frederick Cavendish, who was then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and who had been Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, under which the departments to which these payments were made were allowed to take these extra receipts in diminution of their votes on three conditions—first, that the gross amount of expenditure should be shown to Parliament; secondly, that the Department should not by these means be able to expend money unknown to Parliament; and, thirdly, that the system should be carefully watched by the Audit Office. That scheme was applied, with the sanction of the Public Accounts Committee, in the first place, to the Army and Navy expenditure in the year 1881, and in 1883 the Public Accounts Committee approved of its extension to the Votes for the Exchequer and Audit Departments. They expressed their general concurrence with the view that one uniform system should, as far as possible, be observed throughout the service, and they said they would therefore be glad to see a gradual extension of the system as occasion offered to those Civil Service Votes which readily admitted of it. The system was gradually extended, and has been gradually extended to other Votes since that time, and it has statutory sanction, if I may say so, in the second section of the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, which provided that all money declared by any Act of Parliament or by the Treasury to be an appropriation-in-aid should be dealt with without being paid into the Exchequer. The result to my mind is that uniformity of procedure has been to a great extent secured, and that that uniformity has been accompanied with strict Parliamentary control. When the hon. Member says that there is no Parliamentary control over these extra receipts, what control does he want. Does he want Parliament to direct the Departments to refuse them? It is not a question of granting or withholding expenditure, and why should a Department refuse receipts offered to it?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: What I want is simple. I want these receipts paid into the Exchequer and controlled by Parliament.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member wants that all these extra receipts should, in the old fashion, be paid into the Exchequer and that the House should vote the gross expenditure instead of the net expenditure. Does not the hon. Member see how misleading such a course would be? Take the Army or Navy, or Mint expenditure. The taxpayers of the country have nothing whatever to do with the expenditure of the War Office or of the Admiralty which is recouped to those Departments by the Colonies for troops, ships, guns, or whatever it may be.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): They are the masters of the Government.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member does not see the point. If the House were to vote on all these occasions the gross instead of the net expenditure a completely false conception would be spread abroad of the amount of the total expenditure which was paid for by the taxpayers of the country. The hon. Member for King's Lynn said something about the change of system having interfered very much with a proper comparison of our financial accounts from year to year. The hon. Member desired to go back to the old system, but in doing so he would introduce a double complication of accounts, and to my mind there is nothing more certain than this that in dealing with matters of account, we should as far as possible retain the existing system, so that proper comparisons can be made from year to year. It would take very strong reasons indeed to induce Parliament to change the present system for a method which would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to keep correctly all the national accounts. The hon. Member is a member of the Public Accounts Committee of this House, and this is a matter primarily for the consideration of that Committee. Hitherto that Committee have for years past uniformly supported the existing system and desired its extension. If the Public Accounts Committee were to express any opinion upon this subject, desiring that the present system should be reconsidered, or that any change should be made in it, it would undoubtedly be the duty of the Treasury to consider it from any point of view which they might urge. For the present I think the existing system should he maintained, and I hope the House will reject the motion of the hon. Member.

Question put and agreed to.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Sir M. Hicks Beach.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: In proposing the resolution which I have placed in your hands, Mr. Lowther, I think my first duty is to remind the Committee of the statement which I made on the 6th of April last in regard to the expenditure and revenue of the country during the present financial year. On that occasion I stated that the estimated expenditure for the current financial year would be £150,061,000 and that the revenue would amount to £127,520,000, showing a deficit for the year of £22,541,000. That, added to the deficit of £13,882,000 for the previous year, made a total sum of £36,423,000, and I proposed to provide for that sum by borrowing, as I have already done, through Treasury bills to the extent of £8,000,000 and through the War Loan of £30,000,000, issued at a price of 98½, yielding a net proceed of £29,550,000. In all, therefore, I borrowed £37,550,000, as against a deficit of £36,423,000, so that the deficit was more than covered by £1,127,000. That was the statement which I placed before the House on the 6th of April last. I need not detain the Committee to-day with any fresh remarks as to the revenue of the country. I stated then that owing to the large anticipatory payments, under the heads of Customs and Excise, in the last quarter of last year there must necessarily be a very heavy falling off in the earlier part of the present year as compared with a similar period of the year preceding. My anticipations were realised, as hon. Members are aware who have seen the return of the yield of the first quarter, but they were not more than realised, and the process of recovery is now going on. I see no reason to anticipate that the yield of this year's revenue will be less than I anticipated last April. But, of course, there is another tale to tell with regard to the expenditure. Hon. Members are aware that since the original Estimates of the year were laid on the Table large Supplementary Estimates have been presented and voted by the House. I do not propose this evening to say anything about some of the minor Supplementary Estimates. They would not in the ordinary course necessitate the provision of Ways and Means to meet them. But I have to remind the Committee that the House has voted £3,000,000 towards the expenditure that may be required in China, £200,000 towards the Ashanti Expedition, £1,250,000 Supplementary Navy Estimates, £7,440,000 for purposes connected directly with the war in South Africa, and £1,060,000 for other military purposes, a total in round numbers of £13,000,000. Of course, of those items the Chinese and Ashanti expenditure could not be anticipated in March last, when our original Estimates were framed, and I warned the House at that time, in introducing the Budget of the year, that some provision would have to be made for the additional reserves of guns and ammunition which form a very large part of the Supplementary Naval Estimates. The £7,440,000 for what I may call strictly South African purposes is due, of course, to the unhappy prolongation of the war in South Africa. In March last we advisedly took nothing in our Estimates on account of that war for the return transport of troops, or for the gratuities to be given to them at the end of the war. We omitted to do so for two reasons — in the first place because it was impossible to tell what might be the duration of the war, and I do not think we could at that time have come down to the House and asked Parliament to make provision for such purposes as that. In the second place it was possible that the war might terminate earlier than it has done, and that some of the funds which Parliament had provided for carrying it on might have been devoted to the return transport of troops and to the gratuities to be given to them at the end of the war. So that, in that case, any further provision would not have been required. But all this was explained fully to Parliament at the time, and there was no concealment whatever in regard to it. Of course it is now clear, in the first place, that more will be required for the South African war than we anticipated last March. My hon. friend the Under Secretary for War on Friday last fully explained the nature of the requirements —how the Vote included provision for contingencies as well as for certain special services, which had not been provided for in the original Estimates. I do not think I need dwell upon that subject, except, perhaps, to say that, so far as I have been able to ascertain—and it is, of course, no easy matter when a war is carried on on the other side of the world—I believe, having due regard to the number of troops employed, that the rate of weekly or monthly expenditure on the war has certainly not been more, and has probably been less, than we anticipated when our Estimates were made. Therefore, what I have to ask the Committee to consider to-day is a sum of £13,000,000. Now, how much of that do we require to provide in Ways and Means? I have already reminded the Committee that my borrowings through the War Loan left me with something more than £1,000,000 beyond the Estimates that were laid on the Table in March, and I may also remind the Committee that at the same time I took further borrowing powers to the extent of £5,000,000 beyond the provision necessary for these Estimates, so that I have a margin of £6,000,000 towards the £13,000,000 now required. According to the Estimates laid on the Table then, £7,000,000 has still to be provided. I do not propose, and I think hon. Members will not be surprised to hear it, to ask Parliament for additional taxation towards providing it. I take that course for precisely the same reasons that weighed with me, and were, I think, accepted by the House and the country last autumn. I do not think that the middle of the financial year is a convenient time to increase taxation, having regard to the interests of trade. I propose to ask powers to borrow the sum which I require, but I will ask the Committee to confide in me to a larger extent than the £7,000,000 to which I have referred—I will ask them, in fact, to allow me a considerable margin, as I asked for a considerable margin in March last. Of course, if happily it should not be required it will not be borrowed. I shall do so for two reasons. In the first place, hon. Members are aware that under our financial system in an ordinary year the yield of the last quarter is more prolific than that of any of the preceding three quarters. The great bulk of the income-tax comes in then, and it is especially the case when, as in the present year, a great part of our additional taxation will arise from the addition to the income-tax. The result is that in an ordinary year the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day has always to provide, by temporary borrowings from the bank on Ways and Means, or on deficiency advances, for the financial requirements of the country while the revenue is accruing during the first three quarters of the year. That has been, of course, more necessary this year than in an ordinary year, because the war expenditure so far has been very heavy, and our present indebtedness to the bank is as much as £8,500,000. They have taken £3,000,000 of Treasury bills, half of which fall due on 30th September, and the remaining half on 30th December, and have lent us £3,000,000 on deficiency advances, and £2,500,000 on Ways and Means. Therefore I want a margin of borrowing power by which I may be able to go to the market to relieve the financial exigencies of the moment, through some form of borrowing that would not increase my indebtedness to the bank, which I do not think in the general interest ought to be increased beyond what I have named, and which would provide for temporary requirements pending the falling in of the revenue in the latter part of the year. But I have a still stronger reason for making this request for a large margin to the Committee. As I have told the Committee, three millions of the Supplementary Estimates are for purposes connected with China. Well, what is happening or may happen there, or even what is past, is absolutely uncertain. We cannot tell what expenditure it may be necessary for us to incur on account of events that have happened or may happen in China. We do not yet know as an absolute certainty—though I fear there is very little reason to doubt—that the terrible outrage which is alleged to have been committed at Peking has actually occurred; but, if so, of course it is our duty, together with other Powers whose representatives have suffered in that terrible tragedy, to exact reparation from China for that outrage, because that is the only way to obtain security for the future. I think we may expect that the sum of three millions, already voted by the House, will suffice for operations that may be necessary in regard to this matter. With regard to our general policy towards China, I am sure there will be general agreement with that policy in the House and in the country when I say it is not one of territorial conquest. But we must remember that our main interests in China are not in the north of that Empire. We have great and most important interests in other parts, and, although the three millions already voted will probably be twice what is likely to be the cost of the expedition now on its way, or under orders, yet I do think Parliament would desire not to separate without entrusting to the Government of this country, in the circumstances before us, ample provision to protect our interests in China generally in whatever circumstances may occur. Therefore, on this ground, even more than on the ground of the temporary financial exigencies already alluded to, I ask the Committee to concede to me an extra margin of borrowing power. What I propose is that I should be authorised to borrow up to the extent of thirteen millions. I would ask the Committee, as they did in regard to the War Loan, to grant me the option of deciding the best mode of placing that sum on the market, in the way and at the time which may seem to me most convenient. In the War Loan Act, I was empowered to borrow by bonds, stock, or Treasury Bills. The bonds and stock under the War Loan, the Committee will remember, were not to exceed in duration a term of ten years. I do not propose to ask for any permanent borrowing powers; I desire to adhere to the principle established by the War Loan Act, that we should, as far as possible, ear-mark our borrowing for the purposes of this war as temporary borrowing, and that it should automatically almost point out to the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day—whether I occupy the position or it is occupied by anybody else—that it is his duty at the earliest possible time to make provision for the redemption of the loan. I do not say anything now, I cannot say anything now, as to the mode in which provision should be made; that must form part of the first financial statement after the war in South Africa is happily concluded and we see what the total cost of the war has been to us and how much we are able to recover from the Transvaal. As to that latter point, our Estimate will become more definite as time goes on, but we may already note one important particular, that the mines in the Transvaal have escaped material injury. I ask the Committee to give me another option on this occasion besides the issue of War Loan or Treasury bills. It may not be convenient at present to add to the War Loan. On the other hand, we have outstanding eighteen millions in Treasury bills, including the £8,000,000, which may be considered the normal issue, and the market for Treasury bills might well be overstocked. I therefore ask for powers in this resolution to raise the money either by further issue of War Loan or issue of Exchequer bonds for three or five years or by further issue of Treasury bills. I think it is extremely probable that the issue of Exchequer bonds might commend itself to those who might not be desirous of taking Treasury bills, and, on the other hand, I should be glad, I confess, if my loan were for a shorter term than the ten years War Loan. I think I have concluded all that is necessary for me on this occasion to state to the Committee in regard to the resolution. I am afraid it is not an agreeable statement to the Committee; I am certain it is not agreeable to myself. It is much pleasanter to announce a surplus, but I have to ask the Committee to provide for a deficit, and they are well aware of the reasons for that deficit. They have without objection or opposition voted the Supplementary Estimates the Government have proposed, and therefore I cannot anticipate there will be objection to making provision in Ways and Means for those Estimates. I think my proposals to-day will have been generally expected, and I commend my resolution to the Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"1. That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one, sums not exceeding thirteen million pounds may be raised (in addition to any sums already authorised to be raised in the present session) by all or any of the following methods—

(a) by means of the issue of further war stock or war bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(b) by means of the issue of Treasury bills; or

(c) by means of the issue of Exchequer bonds;

and that the principal and interest on any money so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

"2. That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has made a most clear and at the same time a most important statement to the Committee. But I gathered early in the evening that the House generally agreed with the proposals of the Leader of the House that the discussion which will be necessary on the policy of the Government should be deferred until we come to a later stage—until we come to the discussion of the Bill itself; and as that is to be taken on Wednesday I think it the general desire of those on this side of the House is to content ourselves with expressing our gratitude to the right hon. Gentleman for the lucidity of his statement, and reserving to ourselves the liberty to discuss the policy upon the next occasion.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: In reply to the right hon. Gentleman I should like to say, what I ought to have added before, that I have very carefully considered the matter, and it is my decided belief that the borrowing powers asked for will suffice until the end of the current financial year.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he did not rise to continue the discussion, but merely to ask one or two questions. The right hon. Gentleman in his statement said he had provided for a sum of £61,000,000 up to the 31st of September, and he anticipated that that would be sufficient for the cost of the war to that date. It was a rather curious fact that although by the resolution before the House another £7,000,000 or £8,000,000 had been added, and there had been a further five months war, necessitating the movement of some 40,000 or 50,000 more troops than it was anticipated would be necessary, the amount now asked to be voted was still £61,000,000 only. He thought some explanation was necessary.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH said the Under Secretary for War explained on Friday that the original Estimates made a considerable provision for a continuation of the war beyond the date of the 30th September. The latest news received encouraged the hope that the war would be over by the end of September.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to make clear what will be the exact amount of the £61,000,000 which he estimates will be thrown on the taxes of the present year?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I gave the original Estimate in March, but owing to circumstances which were not then anticipated, another Estimate was given which the hon. Member will find in my statement of the 6th April.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): The right hon. Gentleman told us a moment ago that he estimated that £3,000,000 would be sufficient in respect of the expedition to Peking, but we have learned from the Paper just circulated that a financial guarantee was offered to Japan in respect of the part Japan was to take in the prospective expedition. My question is whether the £3,000,000 covers only the cost of our own troops in the expedition to Peking, or whether it also covers the financial guarantee which we understand is to be given to Japan.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Financial assistance was offered to Japan, as appears in the Papers laid on the Table of the House, provided that Japan sent a much larger number of troops than she had already sent at an earlier date. Time was the essence of the offer; that offer was not accepted, and there is no liability with regard to Japan.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again upon Wednesday.

COMPANIES BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) said he would move the Amendment standing in his name on Sub-section (*k*) of Clause 12, which dealt with the disclosure required in the prospectus with regard to contracts. The provision in this Bill was to take the place of the clause in the Act of 1867 which they were repealing. It had hitherto been customary to insert a clause in applications for shares whereby the applicant waived his right under that clause, the object being to render it harmless to the directors. They were in the present Bill making such a waiver absolutely void. In the Grand Committee he moved the insertion of the words "in writing," but that was objected to on the ground that the words were unnecessary. He thought the words ought to go in to make the sub-section clear.

Moved—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 3, after the word 'contract,' to insert the words 'in writing.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'in writing' be there inserted."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I hope the House will not accept this Amendment. If it were accepted it would amount to an invitation to have contracts other than in writing. There are contracts which would be binding although not in writing. It is desirable that every contract of this kind should be in writing.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed,

"In page 8, line 3, after the word 'contract,' to insert the words 'made by, or on behalf of, or intended to be adopted by the company.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) moved an Amendment providing that the requirement to state, among other things, the dates of and parties to every material contract should not apply to a contract entered into in the ordinary course of the business carried on or intended to be carried on by the company, or to any contract entered into more than "five" years before the date of publication of the prospectus. He pointed out that this Bill as originally drawn proposed to make the term five years, but the Committee, for reasons which were not present to his mind, made the term two years. A company as a result of a disastrous contract might be under the necessity of raising more capital, and yet, if the contract were more than two years old, under the operation of this section the very contract which was the cause of the company's misfortune would not be required to be disclosed to the people who were invited to subscribe. If the period of two years was adhered to companies would pass through a term of gradation. Companies would not be brought to maturity until their worst material contracts had gone out of date and there was no necessity to disclose then to the public. Company promoting would be made easy and safe provided the company was registered, and authorised to commence business, and then made a fresh issue of shares after the lapse of twelve months.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'five,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'two' stand part of the Bill."

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University) admitted there was considerable difficulty in fixing an altogether satisfactory period. The original Bill provided a period of five years, but after discussion the Committee came unanimously to the conclusion that it would be better to make it two years. On the whole he thought two years would be as satisfactory as any other period, because the class of contracts it was desired to have disclosed were contracts made and entered into immediately before the formation of the company, such as contracts for the purchase of the subject-matter of the company. Such were really the material contracts about which it was essential the public should know, and certainly the cases would be rare in which that class of contract would extend over a period longer than two years. In the vast number of cases what the public wanted to get at were really the series of deeds which culminated in the bringing out of a company, and for that a period of two years would generally be sufficient.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) regretted the Government were not prepared to revert to their original proposal of five years. The policy of the clause was that intending subscribers should be given notice of all material contracts. If that was the true policy of the clause, and there was a contract older than two years, why should that contract, being avowedly material, not be disclosed? There were very good purposes for the Statute of Limitations, but he could not see why, if it was acknowledged that all material contracts should be disclosed, such a contract, which was *ex hypothesi* material, was not to be disclosed merely because it was made two years before. He admitted that his argument went further than the Amendment, but in any case a period of five years would be better than one of two years.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) hoped the Government would accept this most reasonable Amendment. The alteration to two years was a very retrograde step, and could not be justified by the false analogy of the Statute of Limitations. The basis of that statute was that owing to the lapse of time evidence might not be forthcoming, and doubts might exist as to liability. But here, presumably, the contract was material and existing, and, though material, was not to be disclosed for the guidance of the investor. If a material contract existed and was disadvantageous to a company, what relevancy was there between that condition of things and a limitation in point of time? The principle of the Bill was publicity and the fullest information for the exercise of a reasonable judgment on the part of the investor; and yet the House was told that too much information would be confusing. One thing to be learned by investors was that they must take trouble for themselves, and if a prospectus gave the information it was for them to go through it, and form their own judgment. But the information, so far as material, must be given. He hoped the Government would restore the period of two years, as two was much preferable to five.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said the reason the Government altered the period from five to two years was that in the discussion in Committee many illustrations were given of the great difficulty in which those who desired to give full information would be placed. It would be very difficult for anyone, with every desire to give full information, to be sure that every material contract over so long a period as five years was announced to the public. It was considered that two years would be quite sufficient, as it was hardly to be supposed that anyone would enter into contracts which it was not desirable to disclose three or four years before the company was formed, with the idea of withholding from the public the knowledge of those contracts. There was nothing very sacred about five or two years, and if the mover of the Amendment cared to accept three years as a compromise the Government would agree, but otherwise the two years would be adhered to.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) thought the right hon. Gentleman was under some misapprehension. The sub-section did not compel a company to disclose every contract, but only every material contract. When it was urged that there would be great difficulty in filing material contracts over a period of five years, it appeared to be forgotten that that had to be done under the present law, and so far as he knew, no difficulty had been experienced. Another matter to be considered was in connection with the reconstruction of companies. The reply of the Solicitor General did not really touch that point, as he seemed to think that the object would be secured if material contracts for two years before the formation of a company were required to be disclosed. A reconstructed company would be a new company in the eyes of the law, but it was quite possible that a company requiring reconstruction might have been in existence for five or ten years, and many of the contracts might be of five, six, seven, or ten years standing. Was it not material that investors who were invited to put their money in the reconstructed company should have notice of those very material contracts? Under the Bill those contracts would not be disclosed at all. By accepting a period of five years the Government would really not be imposing any greater task upon directors than was at present the case, and therefore he hoped the period would not be cut down to two or even three years.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) thought the Government hardly appreciated the fact that under this sub-section persons who did not disclose material contracts were given an absolute protection which did not at present exist. If there were no provision enacted, as now proposed, any promoter or director bringing out a company would be bound under the ordinary law to disclose all material contracts, whatever they were; but to insert a provision dispensing with the necessity of disclosing a contract if it was more than two years old positively gave an encouragement to concealment which did not at present exist, and the intending investor was subjected to a danger from which he was now exempt. Under the ordinary law, if a material contract was not disclosed it would be possible for the investor to claim that he had been misled and deceived. He thought, therefore, it would be a pity to narrow the time for disclosure and to depart from the period approved by both the Departmental Committee and the House of Lords. The danger was not so much that persons would begin to construct their designs two years before a company was brought out, as that, when they had made up their minds to bring out a company, if it was found there were some contracts they would rather not disclose, they would postpone the time for issuing the prospectus for a month or two in order to bring those contracts within the protection of this clause. The whole basis of this Bill was to secure the intending investor by giving him the maximum of information, and it would be a pity if, merely for the sake of making the prospectus in some cases a little shorter, that protection should be materially lessened.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY reminded the right hon. Gentleman that it was only if there was actual fraud, if the omission of any reference to a material contract was part of a suggestion or untrue statement with regard to the condition of a company, that there would be a common law liability. Apart from that, there would be no liability for mere omission. He asked the House to appreciate the consideration which weighed with the Committee when this matter was discussed. It was pointed out that if a period of five years were adhered to a very difficult task would be imposed upon those who were responsible for bringing out the prospectus. If there was no limitation, or if the limitation was as wide as five years, it would be a very serious matter to go through all the contracts for the purpose of ascertaining which were and which were not material. No one wished this Bill to bear so hardly upon those who might be in the position of directors as to prevent persons of the respectable and solid class assuming the responsibilities of that office. The matter had also to be considered from the point of view of the intending investor. Sometimes the easiest way of conveying practically no information to a man was to be so extremely copious that he overlooked that which it concerned him most to know. Whether the matter was looked at from the point of view of the directors or from that of the investing public, it seemed that two years was a reasonable period, and he therefore hoped the Amendment would not be agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE supported the Government view. While it might be right to go back two years to cover the possibility of contracts having been entered into with the fraudulent intention of concealing them, it would be very unreasonable to enforce the publication of every contract which might be material in the eyes of an investor extending over a period of five years. He therefore hoped the two years would be adhered to.

MR. LAWSON WALTON intimated his willingness to accept the suggestion of the President of the Board of Trade that the period should be three years.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 8, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'three' instead thereof.' —(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE explained that the object of the Amendment he was about to move was to render it unnecessary, in the case of a prospectus published more than a year after the date at which a company was entitled to commence business, to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (*e*) and (*h*) of Sub-section 1 of the clause. The provision as it stood applied not only to companies which had been in existence and carrying on business for one year, but also to companies which had been carrying on business for twenty or more years. There were a large number of very honest companies which had been formed by taking over industrial concerns, a certain number of paid-up shares or debentures being given to the vendor as purchase money. There were a number of excellent companies in which a man carrying on an industrial concern had found himself unable to pay his way, and had called his creditors together and formed a limited liability company, the creditors being paid in preference shares and he himself taking a certain number of ordinary shares for his own good-will. Some such companies paid exceedingly well; the creditors had got all their money back, and the man himself had been able to get on his legs again and, by good management, his ordinary shares had become of considerable value. If twenty years later such a company went to the public for more capital, what possible object could there be in stating the particulars required under paragraphs (*e*) and (*f*)? Such information would be utterly valueless to the investor, and he hoped the already numerous difficulties which lay in the way of issuing an honest prospectus under this clause would not be added to in the case of a company which had been in business for more than one year.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 2, after the word 'expenses,' to insert the words 'and the requirements contained in this section, sub-section (1), paragraphs (*e*) and (*h*).' "—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. RITCHIE expressed his unwillingness to omit any of the requirements which had been considered necessary by the Departmental Committee by whom this subject was very carefully considered. It was quite possible to conceive cases in which this information would not be really necessary to enable an investor to make up his mind, but there were also cases in which it would be very important indeed. He therefore hoped the Amendment would be rejected.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. LAWSON WALTON moved to amend that part of the clause which deals with the case of an existing company making a new issue of shares or debentures and provides that in the case of a prospectus published more than one year after the date at which the company is entitled to commence business the obligation to disclose all material contracts shall be limited to a period of one year immediately preceding the publication of the prospectus. They had no proper definition of the word "material." He contended that what applied to an issue by a new company would apply equally to a new issue by a company *in esse*. The extremely narrow restrictions reduced the operation of this clause almost to an absurdity. It had been suggested that an embarrassing duty was cast upon the directors, because they had to disentangle contracts connected with the ordinary business of the company from contracts material to the share issue, and contracts connected with the ordinary business need not be disclosed, while contracts relating to the share issue must be disclosed. Under Sub-section 10, if the contract had relation to the company's ordinary business, there was no obligation to disclose it, but if the contract was not more than three years old and was important surely it ought to be disclosed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 9, to leave out the words 'one year,' and insert the words 'three years,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one year' stand part of the Bill."

MR. RITCHIE: The House will recognise that there is a very material difference between the two cases. In the case of a new company the appeal to the public is not upon the results of previous business operations, but altogether upon facts which are drawn from the previous existence of the business formed into a company, and also all matters connected with the formation of the company. All these are very necessary and proper things for an investor to know, as well as contracts, in order that he may be in a position to judge for himself as to what the prospects of the company are. Things are very different after a company has been going on for many years, for many of the things which were material in the original prospectus sink into the background, and the material points are the manner in which the business has been conducted, the profits made, and many other considerations of that kind. It must be borne in mind that with regard to the disclosure of contracts up to one year, those who desire to make themselves acquainted with contracts before that date could make themselves acquainted with the contracts made for three years previous to the formation of the original company. So that in the case of a company coming out a year after its formation, while they would only have to disclose material contracts for one year, the investor would have the guidance of three previous years, and would practically have four years. The Committee of the House of Lords considered that this limitation of one year was sufficient in the case of new issues, and I hope the House will agree to it.

SIR ROBERT REID said it would be a very great pity if this clause was marred by limiting it to one year. The right hon. Gentleman had given way on this point in the previous clause, and he could not see what the difference was here. He had stated that in the latter case the company would have had the experience of ne year's trading, but there was no such provision in the clause, and there was no necessity to trade at all. He would put a case in point, of which there were many to be found in the dark history of companies during the last fifteen years. Take the case of a man who had a thoroughly bad business, and who turned it into a company. The person who had a thoroughly good business was, as a rule, most reluctant to part with it to a company. The Board of Trade records were full of instances of men parting with rotten businesses to companies in order to cheat creditors. This thing was one of the most common evils in connection with company frauds. A man made a material contract of such a character that nobody would be induced to take up shares if he knew all the facts. If this clause was passed, the man with a thoroughly bad business would start his company, take a sufficiently large number of shares himself, and qualify himself to commence business. Of course, he would take very good care that nothing important happened for twelve months, and then he would offer the business to the public in the form of a company. By virtue of this clause, which was intended to make the law more rigid in order to avoid cheating, he would be entitled to have recourse to the limitation of one year; therefore he would not be compelled to disclose what might be the most material thing in the world, and which, if known, would have spoiled the chance of any shares being taken up. Thus by waiting for a year he would be able to get out of his obligations. He thought if the right hon. Gentleman considered this carefully he would see that it was a thing that would very commonly happen. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would show the same willingness to meet them in this matter as he had done in the previous case, and allow the period to be three years.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said upon this question he shared the views which had just been expressed by his hon. friend. He felt sure that his right hon. friend would perceive on reflection that the Amendment suggested would not in the least interfere with legitimate companies, and he had not established clearly the difference between cases of old and new companies.

MR. RITCHIE: The House will remember that in the House of Lords the Committee made a very clear distinction between the two cases. I am willing to make a concession with regard to this point, but it is one which will still retain the distinction, and I am willing to alter the limitation from one to two years.

MR. LAWSON WALTON: Then I will withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 9, to leave out the words 'one year' and insert the words 'two years.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said he had not the faintest hope of inducing the Government to accept this Amendment, but as an old-fashioned free trader he wished to vindicate his character. Business people very often availed themselves of contracting-out clauses, and such a clause as this was necessary in order that people might, if they thought fit, contract themselves out of any further legal obligation in the matter.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (5) of Clause 12."—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. RITCHIE: As I understand that my hon. friend has had the opportunity of vindicating his character as a free trader—which I understand is his prime object—and as he says he does not expect the Government to accept this Amendment, I do not wish to disappoint my hon. friend. For reasons which hon. Members will well understand, I think they will agree that this Amendment is one which would make a change which the House is not prepared to accept.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said he proposed to ask the House to accept an enlargement of Clause 12——

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I rise to a point of order. The Amendment of my hon. and learned friend is to insert at the end of line 15 the words—

"Nor shall any condition purporting to relieve a director from the obligations imposed upon him in his capacity as a director, or as an officer of or trustee for the company, under the general law be valid unless the same be approved by the court or a judge as fair and reasonable."

I submit that that proposal is out of order. Sub-section 5 deals with the proposal to waive compliance, and this is really a new clause. I think it was down on the Paper as a new clause, but my hon. and learned friend was unfortunately absent when it was reached.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand that this Amendment applies to Articles of Association, which was the effect of the new clause set down by the hon. Member for South Leeds. The words "nor shall any condition," I understand, mean any condition in the prospectus; the words are used already in that sense in this very clause.

MR. LAWSON WALTON: It is quite true that in the new clause I put down I sought to do away with the making of fictitious contracts by means of the Articles of Association. I propose by this Amendment to put an end to the practice of making contracts equally fictitious by means of the prospectus. It is also a common practice to insert in prospectuses themselves language of waiver for the purpose of creating implied contracts and of relieving directors from the obligation of disclosing contracts. That is now a very common practice, and it was foreseen by the authors of this Bill that that practice will be extended when the Bill comes into operation, because the many requirements with which directors will be called upon to comply will naturally lead to the practice of inserting in the prospectus clauses by which they may be waived, thereby depriving the shareholders of their right to enforce compliance with this section as against the company or the directors. Inasmuch as that practice will be largely increased, I think it is not unnatural to suppose that we shall find also on the face of the prospectus a clause relieving the directors under the general law, and not merely of the obligations prescribed under this section. I have seen Articles of Association providing that the directors may enter into contracts without any of the obligations of the existing law attaching to them. Such a clause is never discovered until the company goes into liquidation, and a number of discreditable transactions are disclosed. I hope a clause such as the clause I proposed will be introduced in another place, but I am anxious now to get a small instalment of a beneficial reform. If, however, the Attorney General will give me some assurance that the whole subject will receive proper consideration elsewhere, I shall be very pleased to withdraw the Amendment. Meantime I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, after the word 'void, to insert the words 'nor shall any condition purporting to relieve a director from the obligations imposed upon him in his capacity as a director, or as an officer of or trustee for the company, under the general law be valid unless the same be approved by the court or a judge as fair and reasonable.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I hope the House will not accept this Amendment of my hon. and learned friend. The other Amendment, which he embodied in a new clause, was an Amendment directed against what was in some cases undoubtedly a very considerable evil. That was that the Articles of Association should guard against the directors being enabled to do things which under the law would otherwise be illegal, but the present Amendment of my hon. and learned friend would be almost entirely useless, and is only in order because it is directed against a state of things which can hardly be said to exist. I do not say that conditions of this kind may not have been included in certain prospectuses, but I have never seen them. I would ask the House moreover to consider how this Amendment would work if inserted in the Bill. It is that the conditions contained in the prospectus purporting to relieve a director from the obligations imposed upon him under the general law, shall not be valid unless the same be approved by the court or a judge as fair and reasonable. What is the meaning of "approved by the court or a judge"?

MR. LAWSON WALTON: When the condition is relied on to relieve a director, the court will have an opportunity of determining whether it is fair and reasonable.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: That is not so, because the Amendment says "approved by the court or a judge." What it should say should be "disapproved by the court or a judge." I submit to the House that my hon. and learned friend has put down his Amendment not with any idea of its being adopted, but in order to ventilate another subject which cannot be dealt with because it is not in order.

SIR ROBERT REID said that what his hon. and learned friend was pressing for, and what he also ventured to press for, was that the Attorney General should be good enough to inform the House that when the Bill appeared in another place they would be helped out of their present dilemma. The Bill was building up a new code imposing certain duties on directors and other officers of companies, which experience had shown to be necessary in order to prevent fraud. The Bill prevented shareholders from waiving the benefit of those necessary precautions; but was it not equally necessary to prevent the directors from escaping from the effect of those precautions? It was no use preventing shareholders from waiving the new conditions if the directors were able to escape by a clause in the Articles of Association. The necessary corollary, therefore, was to make some corresponding addition preventing directors by a clause in the Articles of Association from escaping. If the Government looked upon the Amendment from that point of view they would see that it was essential in order to carry out the policy of their own clause. If the Amendment was not accepted directors would be able by a clause in the Articles of Association to give the go-by to the whole of the provisions of the Bill.

MR. RITCHIE: So far as the principle of this Amendment is concerned, I think it would be a very bad thing if, having imposed certain obligations on directors, which we think ought to be imposed on them in the interests of the investing public, they should be permitted to set them aside by some course such as that which has been suggested. But I agree also that the Amendment is one that cannot properly be accepted. The hon. and learned Gentleman asked me whether I could give any pledge with regard to the action to be taken in another place. I am afraid I am not in a position to give any pledge of that kind, but I am quite sure that the object the hon. and learned Gentleman has in view is one that must commend itself to the Lord Chancellor, and all I can say, is that I will take care to draw the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the Amendment, but of course I must leave the whole of the responsibility with him.

MR. LAWSON WALTON asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. RITCHIE: The Amendment which I now move was put down with a view to meeting a point which was raised in the Grand Committee. There was a very unanimous feeling that something should be done to reduce the enormous expense that would be involved if the whole prospectus had to be set out in every advertisement, and this is a proposal by which an abridged prospectus may be published as a newspaper advertisement, provided that reference is made to a convenient place where the full prospectus can be seen and obtained.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, after the word 'void,' to insert the words—'(7) Where any such prospectus as is mentioned in this section is published as a newspaper advertisement it shall be sufficient to publish it in an abridged form, with a reference to a full prospectus complying with the terms of this section, specifying a convenient place where the full prospectus can be inspected and obtained.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words 'and the provisions of this section shall not apply to such abridged prospectus.'"—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. RITCHIE: I am afraid I cannot accept my hon. friend's Amendment. We do want the provisions of this section to apply in a sense to an abridged prospectus—that is to say, it must be an honest abridgment. It must be governed to some extent by the provisions of this section, and the Amendment, to my mind, is one which would have a somewhat misleading effect, and I hope it will not be pressed.

Question put, and negatived.

Main Question again proposed.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: On the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, I should like to point out to the House the very great danger that would be created by it. The object of this Bill and the principle upon which the Bill has been built up, in the Departmental Committee, in the Standing Committee, and up to the present in this House, has been the principle of the fullest publicity, in order that investors may have full knowledge of the facts for forming a fair judgment. What is proposed by this Amendment is that an abridgment of the prospectus may be inserted as an advertisement on one condition, namely, that reference must be made to a convenient place where the full prospectus may be seen and inspected. We know what the present practice is with regard to contracts mentioned in prospectuses, and the places where they may be seen. I venture to say that the number of cases in which investors take the trouble or incur the expense of informing themselves by reference to these documents is almost infinitely small. It may be said that it is their own fault; but the whole of this Bill presupposes unwillingness to incur trouble and expense, and the purpose of the Bill is to be an instrument by which persons may be protected against frauds contained in documents which they will not take the trouble to peruse. I venture to think that a similar practice will grow up in connection with prospectuses if this Amendment is accepted. What would prevent the abridged prospectus being reprinted and issued? I think this Amendment will kill the publication of the full prospectus, because people will object to going perhaps long distances and incurring expense in order to examine the complete documents. I hope, notwithstanding the desire of the right hon. Gentleman to meet the objection raised in Committee, that he will not press the Amendment, because it would lead to the suppression of information, and would be the means of perpetuating that fraud which this House is so desirous of preventing.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said he should like to suggest a way in which some of the obvious dangers of this new sub-section might be avoided. It might be found that an abridged prospectus was in form a full prospectus, but that it left out, perhaps, one thing which might material. What he suggested was, th it would be quite easy to specify t things which might be abridged. He wou therefore move to leave out in line 2 the sub-section——

*MR. SPEAKER: An Amendment t add at the end has been already negative and we cannot now go back. If the ho Gentleman intended to move an Amenc ment he should have moved it before th Amendment of the hon. Member fc Preston.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he was no aware that that rule applied to Amenc ments of Amendments as it did t Amendments of clauses, but he would suggest his proposal to the consideration of the Government, as it would be quit easy for them to carry it out if they thought fit. His suggestion was tha certain things should be specified, such as the Memorandum of Association which might appear in an abridged form Some things were short and terse, and could not be abridged at all, and other things might be omitted, which, although making the prospectus an abridged prospectus, would put the public off their guard. He hoped the Government would carry out his suggestion.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I quite recognise the disease which we are trying to cure by this Amendment, but it appears to be that the remedy is worse than the disease. If the principle of having two prospectuses is once admitted, a very serious blow will be struck at the efficiency of this whole Bill. The real argument in favour of the Amendment is the saving in expense in newspaper advertisements, and there is no other advantage. But if we are to admit the principle that there are to be two classes of prospectuses, one complying with all provisions we have been elaborating with such care, and I believe with sound sense, but which is only to be found somewhere else, and the other class in an abridged form, you will find that the general rule will be, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member for South Islington, that the newspaper advertisement will be reprinted and sent round through the country. The Amendment states that where any such prospectus is published as a newspaper advertisement it shall be sufficient to publish it in an abridged form; therefore, it can be published by reprinting it. I would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman not to persist in the Amendment, which would be a dangerous loophole leading to the evasion of the law.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: In answer to what has been said I will point out that this sub-section would only apply where the prospectus is published as a newspaper advertisement, and would not apply if that advertisement were reprinted and sent round as a circular. The expense of printing all the particulars required by this section in every newspaper advertisement might be overwhelming, and in some cases would prevent a company advertising in newspapers altogether. I would further point out to the House that the abridged prospectus must be a fair abridgment, and that it would not do to insert statements that might suit the company. Any such abridgment would be evidence of actual fraud; it would not be in an abridged form at all but in a selected form, and would not comply with the requirements of the clause. Further, there must be in the abridged prospectus a reference to the full prospectus, with a statement as to where it can be inspected, so that anyone wanting further information has only to apply personally or by letter in order to obtain the full prospectus. It has been suggested that certain particulars damaging to the company might be left out. All I can say is that such an omission would be evidence of actual fraud. If some particulars damaging to the company were left out, it might go hard with the persons responsible. It has also been suggested that there should be some enumeration of the matters which might be abridged, but the House will be sensible that that would be quite impossible. Unless the Amendment be accepted, many honest companies may be prohibited altogether from advertising.

SIR ROBERT REID said he thought that after the statement of the Attorney General the House would regret that this new provision was proposed. Who were the persons who took shares in a company? Some took them for the purpose of dealing and gambling with them, and those gentry required no protection of any sort or description. It was the honest investing public that required protection. A large number of people would not take the trouble to examine a full prospectus if they saw an abridged prospectus, and would take everything for granted. People of simple good faith (erroneously enough, Heaven knows) imagined that corresponding good faith existed on the part of others. All such possibilities had to be met. The Attorney General had stated that it was enough that the abridged prospectus should specify a convenient place where the full prospectus might be inspected. So it was under Section 38 of the Companies Act of 1867, which provides that all particulars of contracts might be examined at certain stated places; but everyone knew that such contracts were never examined. Then the Attorney General said that it was necessary that the abridgment should be a true abridgment, and that if any matter of importance were omitted it would be evidence of fraud. Nothing of the kind. The Attorney General himself laid down the law that the non-disclosure of a material fact was not evidence of fraud unless it were a fact which if known would make untrue a statement which had been made. That would not be the case in connection with the proposed abridgment, and to his mind the arguments of the Attorney General did not prevail. Why was the House labouring this clause about prospectuses? It was because they wished that in the interests of the investing public certain things should be stated. They wanted whenever the public were invited to subscribe for shares to be sure that the person invited should have brought to his notice certain particular facts. That was the whole object of the clause. But an Amendment was now proposed stating that an abridged prospectus, from which every single thing the House had been insisting on might be omitted, might be published. That, in his opinion, would be fatal to the whole clause. He did not dare to hope that the right hon. Gentlemen would give way, although he trusted he would; but, if the right hon. Gentleman would not, he would propose an Amendment, if he were in order. It was to add at the end of the proposed subsection the following words, "Provided that none of the matters required to be disclosed by this section are abridged in such advertisement." Newspaper advertisements contained copious laudations and glowing descriptions of the property to be floated, and a great deal of such matter might be abridged, but what he objected to being abridged were matters which they now said ought to be disclosed.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'provided that none of the matters required to be disclosed by this section are abridged in such advertisement.'"—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. RITCHIE: We cannot possibly accept the hon. and learned Gentleman's Amendment, because it simply proposes to add at the end of the proposed Amendment that the Amendment shall have no effect.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said it was impossible for anyone to apply for shares in a company without having the full prospectus brought before him, which always contained the application form. That was the answer to the objections which had been taken.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that the Government had drafted a long measure setting forth the particulars which should appear in every prospectus for the protection of the simple-minded persons to whom the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite had referred. They then reflected that every prospectus advertised in the future would run into about five columns, and that if a newspaper contained very many prospectuses it would be impossible for it to contain anything else. The Government, having with great ingenuity and much culinary skill concocted their salad, came to the conclusion that they would throw it out of the window. What was the use of saying that certain particulars should be set out with the utmost minuteness in a prospectus, and then saying in this Amendment that a promoter need not do anything of the sort, and could adopt the beautiful device which the House of Commons frequently resorted to—namely, the device of reference? Then the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, seeing that the Government had thrown over their own proposals by the Amendment of the President of the Board of Trade, moved an Amendment allowing things to remain as they were before the Amendment of his right hon. friend. If he might be permitted to say it to his right hon. and learned friend, his best way would be to vote against the Amendment now proposed. Speaking as a person who had never promoted a company, he maintained that it was absurd for the Government, after the Committee upstairs had spent a great deal of time in setting forth all sorts of particulars which ought to be disclosed to the public, to come down here and say, "After all, an abridgment and a reference will do." That was not the right way of treating the subject under discussion or the Bill, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade would withdraw his Amendment, which would destroy the whole effect of this clause.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON trusted the right hon. Gentleman would withdraw the Amendment, which the Committee upstairs had not had an opportunity of discussing, and which had met with such diverse criticism. No need of such a clause had ever before been suggested. What had been suggested upstairs was that the Memorandum of Association was often so prolix in length and full of immaterial matter that it would be to the advantage of the newspapers that a document of that kind must be incorporated in every newspaper advertisement; and it seemed to be the view of the Committee that there should be some provision for relieving the directors of a company from publishing the Memorandum of Association. But the Committee never for a moment thought of relieving the directors of the obligation of furnishing the very material particulars embraced in the prospectus. The Amendment assumed that it was necessary to insert an advertisement of the prospectus of a company in a newspaper in order to advertise that company, but it was quite possible to have a newspaper advertisement which did not indicate that it was a prospectus; and if the advertisement did not say it was a prospectus, the public might not be misled, but if the advertisement appeared as a prospectus as such, though abridged, it was obvious that it might lead to misconception in the minds of the public. It was evident that the word "abridgment" offered considerable latitude. It might not be complete from an analytical point of view, and it might be said to be unfair for not bringing before the public all that was necessary to be known. It was impossible to imagine what litigation might result to determine whether the abridged prospectus was fair or not, or what actions might be brought charging directors with fraud. So that by this Amendment they were inducing a company, in publishing an abridgment of a prospectus by means of advertisement, to lead intending shareholders to undertake the exceedingly difficult duty of distinguishing between an abridgment and the larger prospectus. Could anything be more effective in bringing about litigation? Then it was said that the full prospectus was to be inspected at some convenient place. Suppose an inquiry for an inspection of the prospectus was met with a refusal? A few years ago a Rhodesian company was registered in Ireland; indeed, Ireland seemed to be a favourite place for registering certain companies. If an address was given in some Irish county as the place where the prospectus might be inspected it might be convenient from the company's point of view, but inconvenient to the proposed shareholders. He hoped the House would reject the Amendment for another reason. It was a very important derogation from the existing law. Under the existing law, if the directors of a company published an abridged prospectus they did so at their peril, and any contract entered upon on the faith of that abridged prospectus might be voided by the shareholders. It might be said by the directors if this Amendment was passed, "We abridged the prospectus, it is true; but we are entitled to do so. We may have abridged it badly; but we did our best. We left out important parts, it is true; but that did no harm to the shareholders, because at some convenient place there was the full prospectus for them to inspect." In fact, the moment the Government allowed two prospectuses — one which complied with the Act and the other not—the most stringent provisions of the Act would be obviated and become a dead letter. He trusted the Amendment would be withdrawn.

SIR ROBERT REID said he would withdraw his Amendment, as he thought it would be more convenient that the division should be taken on the Government Amendment.

Amendment to Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. H. S. FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) could not help thinking that there was some confusion in the mind of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, and of others who preceded him, as to the purpose and scope of the Amendment. The House, in the clauses already passed, had laid down the most express conditions as to what was to be in the prospectus, and the company must get it filed with the registrar of joint stock companies, and until so filed it was not to be issued. There could be no doubt what the Bill meant by the prospectus. Then Section 12 went on to say what the particular document must contain. But there arose a very serious difficulty, which the hon. Member for South Leeds himself recognised—namely, the difficulty of enacting not only that the prospectus should contain a vast amount of information, but that every public notice drawing attention to that prospectus should also contain all that detailed information. As he understood the Amendment, it was for the purpose of meeting that difficulty. Then came another question. In the issue of a prospectus it was customary to call public attention to it through the medium of the press. That might be done in a dozen different ways. The advertisement might be an abridgment, referring the reader to where he could see the full prospectus. As an illustration, John Smith and Co. issued half a million of preference shares; they advertised that fact, and added that the full prospectus might be obtained at the office of the company at so-and-so street. The hon. Gentleman would say that that was not the prospectus; but if he looked at the definition clause he would find that a prospectus meant "any prospectus, notice, circular, advertisement, or other invitation offering to the public for subscription or purchase any shares or debentures of a company." One might imagine from what had been said that the public subscribed for shares without reading the prospectus. [AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.] It was very rarely that they did not read it, and he said that with some knowledge of the general practice of companies. The object of the advertisement was to call the attention of the public to any undertaking, and the practice of the public was to apply for a full prospectus and an application form. He knew that the practice had grown up recently, to a limited extent, of filling in the application form before the prospectus reached the hands of the proposed investor, but that was very rarely done. The hon. Gentleman spoke as if, by passing the Amendment, they were going to deprive the inquirer of the opportunity of knowing the contents of the contract. He said that in practice nobody ever went to see the contract. But how was the Bill going to affect that?

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that what he did say was that, except in the smallest number of cases, people did not go to inspect the contracts, and that would be equally the case with an abridged prospectus in which a general reference had been made to the full document, to be consulted elsewhere.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said there was no analogy between the cases. He agreed that certain classes of people did not take the trouble to read a prospectus, and never would. But these people did not need any protection, and did not deserve it. They thought the shares in a company were going to a premium, and they applied for a certain number in order to throw them on the shoulders of somebody else. There could be no doubt that in the absence of the Amendment the expense of inserting the advertisment in the newspapers would be so great that it would never be put in practice.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, E.) hoped the Government would show some backbone, and insist on the adoption of the Amendment. They had had arguments from both sides of the House in defence of the investors, but it seemed to him that the object of the Bill was to secure large incomes to the lawyers and large profits to the newspaper proprietors. An abridged prospectus, however short, would lead to much expense. If every line of the prospectus and every detail of an agreement had to be advertised, it would be impossible for anybody but a millionaire to bring out a company, and the result would be that company promoting would become a millionaires' monopoly. He thought the Amendment a very fair one, and he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade would not give way upon it. The right hon. Gentleman had already made too many concessions to the lawyers. He was sorry to say that there were more lawyers present that night than any of the rest of hon. Members.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) agreed with the hon. Member opposite, and hoped his right hon. friend would not give way on this Amendment. In his judgment it did not go quite far enough, although it was a concession to good sense and general convenience. It was quite evident that there had been a good many fingers in the pie in framing Clause 12. No doubt those who framed the clause had in mind the initial prospectus, which was put forward when the company was first started, and in which all the particulars which might reasonably be asked for were required to be disclosed. But the word "prospectus" included every notice issued by the company after it had started, inviting the public to subscribe for shares. He put it to the House that when a company wished to increase its capital by the issue of debentures or additional shares, it did not desire to go in for an immense advertising campaign, but only put a modest line or two in such papers as it was thought would bring custom, pointing out that full information could be obtained at the company's office. It would be preposterous to demand that all the full information that was demanded in the original prospectus should be set out *in extenso* in these advertisements. It would put an end altogether to the practice of advertising for subscriptions, and thereby inflict great inconvenience on honest, struggling companies. The concessions which the Government had made had not gone beyond what was intended in Committee.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) said that, having regard to the very wide terms of the definition of "prospectus," it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that some such Amendment as that proposed by the Government was necessary. Apparently "prospectus" was to include not merely the ordinary advertisement by which the company invited the public to subscribe, but if a man concerned in the promotion of the company, no matter how long previously, had shares and wished to sell them, he would be compelled to advertise the full prospectus. But in endeavouring to meet the difficulty that existed the Government had selected a singular way to do it. They limited it to an advertisement published in a newspaper. It was not the advertisements in the newspapers that ought to be treated the most leniently. If any distinction was to be drawn it ought not to be in favour of the way which drew most money into the pockets of the company. A differentiation ought to be drawn between the mode of publishing the advertisement and the character of the advertisement. Some Gentlemen had addressed the House from the point of view of the investor, some from the point of view of the company promoter; he would say something from the point of view of the lawyer. If this Amendment passed into law he should never be entrusted with the duty of drawing an abridged prospectus, because he would say that the prudent thing to do was to publish the prospectus as a whole. It was possible to test this matter in a very simple way. Would the Government tell them what class of matter it would be safe to omit from the abridged prospectus? The difficulty was to tell what was to be abridged; if matter was not material it need not appear in the abridged prospectus at all; if, on the other hand, it was material, could it be omitted from the abridged prospectus? Was it intended to protect people who deliberately omitted from a prospectus something that was material? If the clause was examined it would be found that nine-tenths of the matters could not be abridged. It was plain that by unduly enlarging the scope of Clause 12, the Government had got into a very great difficulty. Some amendment was necessary, but, looking at it from a lawyer's point of view, this Amendment was most dangerous.

MR. BRYCE said he did not propose to follow the arguments which had been urged in respect of the clause, although he was satisfied that no answer had been given to them by the Government; he merely rose for the purpose of making a suggestion. If the clause were carried upon a division the House would have no opportunity of amending it, but in another place there would be an opportunity, and as the clause seemed to be ill-fitted as it stood to attain the objects of the Government he suggested that the clause should be carefully considered by the Law Officers of the Crown in order to see whether its form could not be improved with a view to its amendment in another place.

MR. RITCHIE thought the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman was one well worthy of consideration.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield) expressed the opinion that the Amendment was a most important one. It struck at the root of the section, and rendered nugatory all those provisions which the section provided. The section provided that the prospectus of a company should contain many things, and laid down certain penalties in event of its not containing them. The difficulty which was sought to be met by the Amendment ought to be met in the interest of all honest companies. No one wanted to kill legitimate enterprise, but it was going to be seriously hurt unless some provision was made to insert in a newspaper such an advertisement as would be necessary. The only difference with regard to the newspaper advertisement was that the expense would be enormously increased, because the prospectus would contain a great deal of common form matter which nobody required to see and which was never read. Of such a character was the Memorandum of Association, which contained in legal phraseology every power which a company might think fit to exercise. The public at large did not desire to see that, and would not read it if it appeared in a newspaper; but the extra expense of printing it in a newspaper would mean thousands of pounds to every company which was brought out;

the difficulty might be obviated by omitting Memorandums of Association from the advertisement. The only other point in which it would be proper to abridge the prospectus was in the schedule of contracts, which in the case of a large company like Lipton's, with an immense number of establishments, would mean a tremendous cost to the company. He ventured to suggest, therefore, that instead of the words "in an abridged form," there should be inserted, "without inserting the Memorandum of Association and schedule of contracts."

Main Question put, "That the words '(7) Where any such prospectus as is mentioned in this section is published as a newspaper advertisement it shall be sufficient to publish it in an abridged form, with a reference to a full prospectus complying with the terms of this section, specifying a convenient place where the full prospectus can be inspected and obtained,' be there inserted."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 102 ; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 247.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Bartley George C. T.
Beach,Rt.HnSirM.H.(Bristol)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshre
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cornwallis,Fiennes StanleyW.
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Dyke,Rt HonSirWilliamHart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hoare, Ed. Brodie(Hampstead
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jessel, Captain H. Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Monckton, Edward Philip
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel,HnWm.RobertWellesley
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William(Derbsh.)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,JamesParker (Lanarks.
Spencer, Ernest
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tabot,RtHon.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunt'n
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wortley,Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Drage, Geoffrey
Duckworth, James
Fenwick, Charles
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gladstone,Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas.H.
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell,DrMA(Queen'sC
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, W.Pritchard(Merth'r
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Sir James Woodhouse.

Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Robert Reid and Sir James Woodhouse.

Another Amendment made.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE expressed strong hopes that the Government would accept the Amendment which he proposed to move. In framing it he had taken as a precedent the Act limiting the liabilities of directors. He was quite sure that the Government did not desire to prevent honest business men from becoming directors of joint stock companies, but they certainly would be deterred from becoming so unless some such Amendment as he proposed was made. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, at end, to insert '(6) In the event of non-compliance with any of the requirements of this section a director or other person responsible for the prospectus shall not incur any liability by reason of the non-compliance, if he proves that (*a*) as regards any matter not disclosed, he was not cognisant thereof, and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered it; or (*b*) the non-compliance arose from an honest mistake of fact on his part.' "—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. RITCHIE thought that some such provision ought to be made, but at the same time he thought the whole burden of proof ought to lie upon the individual. He accepted the Amendment, which he thought was reasonable.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE trusted that his next Amendment would meet with a like fate at the hands of the Government for the same reason. At present, if an action of tort were brought against several defendants who were all guilty, and one defendant was proceeded against, and had to pay the full damage, he could not compel those equally guilty with himself to contribute a shilling towards what he had had to pay, therefore the whole loss fell upon one man. There was a precedent for the alteration he proposed, because the courts had laid down a principle similar to that in the Amendment in the case of trustees and executors, who could compel their co-trustees or co-executors to make contribution. That had been done in a case where the breach of trust had been committed by an active trustee, and the passive trustee was held to be equally liable. In this case the directors were really trustees for the shareholders, and such an Amendment was, under the circumstances, only right and proper. He hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 18, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'and every person who is made liable to pay damages in respect of any infringement of the provisions of this section shall be entitled to contribution as in cases of contract from every other person who, if sued separately, would be liable to pay such damages.' "—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment. The provision to which he had alluded had never been put into force, and consequently there had been no opportunity of testing the principle. He was not very much enamoured of these special exceptions to the general law of the land, which might result in great and manifest inconvenience. He therefore thought the Amendment ought not to be adopted.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that as the Bill was to apply also to Scotland the Scotch Members were very much interested in the clause. It was a well-known principle in Scottish law that when a wrongdoer had been guilty of an act, and other wrongdoers had been equally guilty with him, and he had been convicted and fined, he could not recover any contribution from his co-wrongdoers. There were many illustrations of that principle. In England the law was precisely the same in that respect as the law of Scotland. It did not recognise the right of one wrongdoer to any contribution from his co-wrongdoer. In this case it had been argued as if this was a case of liability under a contract. That was not so. It was a case where the parties had been guilty of an offence of a *quasi*-criminal nature—a breach of the statutory law—and he thought the acceptance of such an Amendment would very much weaken the clause. He submitted that there was no ground whatever for the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 42 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 248.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Austin. M. (Limerick, W.)
Bond, Edward
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Crilly, Daniel
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Sir F. H. (Southampton)
Fenwick, Charles
Griffith, Ellis J.
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Q.C.)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudder'd)
Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Sydney Gedge and Mr. Harry Foster.

NOES.

Allhusen. Augustus H. Eden
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, George, C. T.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Davies, Sir Hor. D. (Chatham
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Drage, Geoffrey
Duckworth, James
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Labouchere, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Middlemore, John T.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbys.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Ernest
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Cl. A. C. E. (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. BOND said the only way in which this clause would affect companies which had come into existence previously to the passing of this Bill would be in the event of their requiring to raise fresh capital either through a further issue of shares or by debentures after the Act had come into force. Old companies had been formed without knowledge that any such provisions as were comprised in the Bill were contemplated, and every such company which desired to raise money by a new issue of shares or by debentures would have to modify their Articles of Association. That was a matter which would involve a great deal of explanation, which shareholders were, perhaps, not willing to understand or believe. No injustice could be done by the adoption of the Amendment he proposed, and, therefore, he hoped it would commend itself to the right hon. Gentleman. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 18, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'This section shall not apply to a company registered before this Act comes into operation.'"—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. RITCHIE thought it would be a mistake to open the door to the issue of new capital, to which the public were invited to subscribe, without the necessary information being given. The case of a company issuing fresh capital to its own shareholders was provided for already, if that was what his hon. friend desired.

MR. BOND said he would withdraw the Amendment, but he would like to make one suggestion, which was that the right hon. Gentleman should add the statement about the minimum subscription to the particulars which were not required to be stated in a prospectus issued after the formation of a company and inviting subscriptions for fresh shares.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. H. S. FOSTER desired to move an Amendment not upon the Paper—in line 20 to strike out "a" in order to insert the words "any material." Those words were taken from Sub-section (*k*) of the preceding clause, which provided that "every material" contract must be set out in the prospectus. The need for the Amendment had been accentuated by the Reports of the Parliamentary Committee of the Incorporated Law Society with regard to the clause. The effect of the Amendment would be to restrict the powers of the clause in a very necessary way.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 20, to leave out the word 'a,' and insert the words 'any material' instead thereof.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'a' stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the House would not accept the Amendment, which was entirely unnecessary.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said if there was one evil greater than another in company administration it had been the alteration of contracts by the directors without the sanction of the shareholders and without their knowledge. By the clause these things could be done provisionally, subject to the shareholders becoming acquainted with the proposed alteration, and he saw no reason for the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he did not think it was worth while to offer any argument in respect of the next Amendment. He would simply move.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 20, after the word 'prospectus,' to insert the words 'unless such variation shall be in favour of the company.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I hope my hon. friend will withdraw this Amendment, which is quite unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 31, to leave out the words 'not less than two directors,' and insert the words 'the auditor or auditors,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

Other Amendments made.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON, in moving the next Amendment, said the House was well aware that a company was often brought into being in order that it might be constituted the purchaser, at an extravagant and inflated price, of property the vendor puts on the market. The company thus brought into existence was often the creature of the vendor. A company was a legal *persona*, and might buy the property at any price it thought proper. No doubt the vendor was answerable at law for any profit which he made in promotion, but it was impossible for the shareholders to obtain information as to what profit he had made in bringing the company into being. The legal duty which the vendor, when he was also the person who brought the company into being, ought to discharge was about to become a dead letter. Now, for the first time in the history of company law it had been made permissible for a company to pay the expenses incidental to its own promotion. The company might, therefore, provide for the underwriting of its own capital; it might set aside a fund for its own promotion or placing its own shares. But that was attended by the consideration that where a company paid commission it should publish to its shareholders the fact and state what the amount of its preliminary expenses was. But in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the promotion of a company was effected not by the company itself, but by persons who were interested in bringing the company into being. There was no person so interested in bringing a company into being as the vendor who was to obtain from the company the price he was asking for his property. In those ninety-nine cases the preliminary expenses necessary for the flotation of the company would be provided by the vendor and for the best of reasons—namely, that unless the company was launched there would be no purchaser for his property. If this Bill was to have any operative effect whatever the vendor, when he occupied not only the position of vendor, but also that of promoter, must be brought to book. The public must have some knowledge of the extent to which he was promoting the company, and what proportion of the so-called price which he was receiving for the property was being disbursed in preliminary and promoting expenses. Unless some such provision was inserted the Bill would be an elaborate series of clauses which would fail to stop frauds of the worst character. He might give a concrete case which had been illustrated by a recent investigation in the courts. A small business was purchased for a few pounds by a company promoter. A company was brought out to buy that business for as many thousands as the promoter gave hundreds. If it were the fact that the vendor and the purchasing company were both in existence at the time the arrangement was entered into, if both could watch their own interests, there would be no cause for such an alteration of the law. But the vendor stood to obtain so large a profit provided he could create the company to buy his property at his fixed figure, that it was worth his while to expend in anticipation of that profit very large sums of money in order to launch the company. The underwriting of the capital would be arranged; the directors whose names were to attract very largely the subscription of the share capital were paid; the advertising expenses borne, and that judicious expenditure made among the press of a certain class which was necessary to give the scheme the widest currency in financial circles. As the result of these operations the company was launched, and the stipulated price paid, the vendor obtaining a very large profit a considerable proportion of which had been expended in bringing the company into being. How was it possible for any member of the public to come to the conclusion that it was desirable for the company to continue its operations unless he knew, first of all, the legitimate price paid, and, secondly, the illegitimate price paid? The information provided for in this section was supposed to be information required by the shareholders attending the first statutory meeting; they were entitled to know what the scheme was in which they were embarking, and they had to come to the conclusion whether it would pay to put the company into working operation or whether it would not be better to abandon the concern as a stillborn enterprise. How could sane men decide for themselves that problem unless they knew to what extent the price paid for the property was purely fictitious—in other words, to what extent the sum received by the vendor had been disbursed in the manner just described? He could not conceive any objection to the Amendment, but he understood that the answer of the Government in Committee was that they had no control over the vendor. That, however, was no answer at all. The only vendor affected by this provision was the vendor who was also the promoter of the company, and it would be to the interest of such a vendor to furnish this statement provided the duty were imposed upon him; the promotion of the company would be impossible without that statement, and therefore no such vendor would attempt to promote a company unless he was in a position to publish to the shareholders the extent to which he was instrumental in forming the company. No further control of the vendor was required. It might be said that if a promoter furnished a false statement some responsibility would be cast upon the directorate. There was nothing in the Amendment making directors responsible for the accuracy of the statement furnished by the vendor. All they had to do was to tell the shareholders what the vendor said, and if there was any inaccuracy the vendor could be brought to book under Clause 32 of the Bill. The Bill would entirely fail if it was based on the assumption that the promotion expenses and all the incidental expenses attached to the flotation of a company were borne by the company itself. They were borne by the vendor, and an account was never rendered because there was no machinery by which it could be required. He appealed to the Government to provide by a simple Amendment of this kind, that the vendor, where he was also the promoter, should be compelled to furnish such an account as was here proposed, and that that account for what it was worth should be placed before the shareholders. It would be a very effective deterrent against fraudulent practices by the vendors of companies; by it shareholders would be able to judge to what extent the vendors had acted honestly in the promotion of a company, and with the information thus provided they would be able to decide whether a company was launched under favourable auspices or whether it was dishonest.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 8, after the word 'approval,' to insert the words—'(*f*) An account furnished by the vendors within the meaning of Section 12 (2) or not, setting out the sums in cash and shares expended by them in the formation of the company, with particulars of the items and objects of such expenditure.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said it was impossible not to sympathise with the object the mover of the Amendment had in view, but it was possible in the pursuit of such an object to put forward proposals which, for the purposes of this Bill, were not calculated to work any really beneficial effect. The section in which it was proposed to insert these words provided that the Return was to be a Return in reference to the affairs of the company as to matters within the knowledge of those concerned in the company – the number of shares allotted, the amount of cash received by the company, an abstract of the receipts and payments of the company on capital account, an estimate of the preliminary expenses of the company, the names, addresses, and descriptions of the directors, auditors, manager, and secretary, and the particulars of any contract the modification of which was to be submitted to the meeting for approval. Those were all matters which the directors could properly be required to certify in the terms of the sub-section. His hon. and learned friend proposed, in addition to that, that a statement should be made by the vendors as to certain matters specified in the Amendment. How could the directors certify in regard to the matters referred to in the sections? If hon. Members looked at page 9, line 30, they would find that it was provided that the directors shall, at least seven days before the day on which the meeting is held, forward to every member of the company a statement of particulars as to the shares allotted, the cash received, and an abstract of receipts and expenditure.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: The directors will simply certify that the account is the account sent to them by the vendors.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: That would mean certifying nothing at all. All the matters dealt with in the sub-section were matters which the directors might fairly be expected to certify, but the directors could only certify that the statement was supplied to them by the vendors, and they could not certify whether it was true or untrue. That would only mean that they would be providing a safeguard which would be more or less illusory. Then he called the attention of the House to the extreme vagueness of the language of the Amendment. The Amendment stated that the vendors would have to furnish an account showing any sums in cash and shares expended by them in the formation of the company, with particulars of "the items and objects" of such expenditure. What did that mean? The items one could understand, but what were the objects? Was it meant that the promoters should state what they had in view when they spent these particular items? On the whole he submitted that this Amendment, though excellent in form, like all his hon. and learned friend's Amendments, was not one that should recommend itself to the House.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: I hope the House will go to a division on this Amendment, as it seems to me to be a very legitimate and proper one. We know perfectly well that promoters do spend very large sums of money in getting out companies, and we know also that that money comes out of the pockets of the companies themselves. The aim and object of the Bill is publicity, and to enable persons who have taken shares to know what has been the *bona fide* expenditure, what has been the amount the vendor obtained, and what has been the amount spent in promoting the company. But if a company's accounts are only to be known to the shareholders and the promoter's accounts are not, that makes the Bill a perfect farce. Take the case of underwriting. The other day I was very sorry that the Attorney General could not see his way to insist that all the money given by the promoters for underwriting should be stated in the prospectus. A person would see 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. for underwriting in the prospectus, and would suppose that that was the only amount that was paid; but the Attorney General admitted that in addition to that 2 or 3 per cent. paid by the company the promoter might give any sum of money on condition, the Attorney General said, that it was his own money. But, of course, that money is eventually paid not by the promoter, but by the company. I do not know whether the Attorney General is aware of the nature of the amounts now paid by the promoter of a company. Take, for instance, the solicitor. The solicitor very often gets £1,000 for putting his name on a prospectus. Is that sum paid by the company? The company might pay £100 of it, but the promoter himself would pay £900. That applies also to brokers on the Stock Exchange. They very often receive £1,000 for putting their names on prospectuses, and that money is mainly paid by the promoters. I think the Bill without some such clause as this would be a mere farce and a snare, and would do more harm than good, I cannot understand the argument of the Attorney General. It seems to me that in his opinion there is something particularly sacred in the section. He says that the Amendment would make an inroad on it; but let us make an inroad on it, because there is nothing particularly sacred about it. Let us act as practical men. We know perfectly well where the difficulty is. It is that when a promoter is selling his property, he pays a very large amount of money himself to get hold of people. Take the case of reports. Does the right hon. Gentleman think that all the reports published about a company are *bona fide*? I like to know when I read these reports what the eminent mining engineer has got for them. If I saw that he got £1,000 or £2,000, I would begin to mistrust the company. Are promoters ashamed of making known what they pay, and are solicitors, brokers, and mining engineers also ashamed of what they make being known? If they think it is legitimate, why should not the shareholders know of it? Every shilling paid in this way comes out of the capital of the company, because it is added to the price paid to the vendor. I hope the Attorney General will not tell us that this clause, which is proposed by an hon. Gentleman who was a member of the Committee, and who is eminent in the law, cannot be accepted because it would make an inroad on the section.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT: I understood the Attorney General to say that he regarded this Amendment as at variance with the scheme of the clause. It so happens that I proposed a clause on the original Departmental Committee with the object of giving the fullest information as to the history and genesis of a company to the shareholders at the statutory meeting, and to make the statutory meeting, hitherto formal, a reality. I venture to say that this additional information would be of the greatest value to the shareholders. The Attorney General said that the one objection was that the report would have to be certified by the directors, and that they could not certify it because it would be information furnished by the vendors. There is no objection on that ground. So far as I can see, the real objection to the clause is one that I ventured to raise on the Departmental Committee—how are you to compel vendors to furnish this information? That, however, could be easily made good by additional words to the effect that such information should be rendered by the vendors, and that a penalty should attach for non-compliance. I sincerely hope that the Amendment will be pressed.

MR. BRYCE: When the Attorney General objected to this Amendment, he really did not grapple with it on its merits. He admitted that the object was a good one, and that the difficulties in the way are really difficulties as regards machinery. But they could be easily met. Surely if this Amendment were to become part of the clause, it would then become the duty of the directors, knowing the responsibility which would be upon them of producing this account by the vendor at the statutory meeting, to enter into an arrangement with the vendor to supply that account before completing the contract for the purchase of the company. All that is necessary is to lay the duty on the directors, and to add a provision containing a penalty for misdemeanour as under Section 32. I see nothing at all in the argument of the Attorney General. It is perfectly clear that if it is part of the law the directors will require it, and the promoters will furnish it, and it will be produced at the statutory meeting. As regards the other objection of the Attorney General, he asks what is the meaning of "items" and "objects."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I said there was no difficulty about "items."

MR. BRYCE: Then the "object" would be, the purpose for which the money was applied. Supposing a sum of £500 is paid to a financial boomer, the "item" is £500, and the "object" is to boom the concern. I might also mention that this Bill, as prepared by the Departmental Committee and introduced by the Government in the House of Lords, contained a provision to the effect that a promoter might not retain for his own use any profit in shares or otherwise arising out of his connection with the promotion of the company, unless full and fair disclosure were made as to the amount of that profit. That would cover, at any rate, part of the object of my hon. and learned friend, and I think that the Government are bound to accept an Amendment which will have such a useful effect.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said the Amendment proposed that the statement should be made at the statutory meeting, but he asked what protection would it then be? If it were made before the shareholders had invested their money he could quite see it would be a protection, but if it were made after they had invested their money he could not see how it would protect them in any way.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he could not help thinking that to object to the Amendment merely on verbal grounds was really not doing justice to its subject matter. What they wanted to get at was the large amount of money which disappeared during the formation of a company as between the people who were selling the concern and those who were taking it over. If the Bill remained as it was, and merely dealt with what the company did, and failed to deal with what the promoter did, he thought it would serve rather as a screen for the promoter than otherwise. They had the other night the question as to whether the commission to be paid for underwriting should be stated in the prospectus. That was but another way of dealing with the matter suggested in the Amendment, and he understood from the President of the Board of Trade that he was prepared to give that matter consideration. Of course if they had it stated on the prospectus what had been done by the promoter, and if they made it the duty of the directors to ascertain the facts in relation to the promotion of the company, then a statement such as was proposed, coming before the statutory meeting, would be very desirable. It seemed to him, unless they made the directors responsible for obtaining a knowledge of what the promoter had done in connection with the flotation of the company, that the Bill would really serve as a screen for the promoter. Whatever might be the objection to the form of the Amendment, he hoped the Government would consider it in connection with the question of the disclosure in the prospectus of the underwriting commission paid by the promoter, with a view to seeing whether it could not be added to the Bill at any rate in another place.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) said he desired to say a few words in support of the Amendment. At the time of the statutory meeting, where the matter would be discussed, the promoter might not have got rid of all his shares, and if the statement remained screened or otherwise concealed from the public, then his remaining shares could be disposed of. Seeing that the Government had not expressed any serious objection to the principle of the Amendment, and that the Attorney General had stated that he entirely approved of the idea, he ventured to express the hope that some means might be found of carrying the Amendment into effect. After all, to his unprofessional mind the question resolved itself into a very simple one—was this information such information as the shareholders ought to have? If the Attorney General said that the information ought to be concealed, then he was entirely with him in opposing the Amendment, but if the Attorney General said that the information ought to be made public he was taking on himself a great responsibility in refusing to accept the Amendment.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) said he hoped the Government would not concede this point, because if the expenditure in cash and shares were to be divulged at the statutory meeting, then they might go so far as to ask what the vendor had paid for the property. If an enterprising man discovered a gold mine he would have to divulge the price he paid for it, although he might have expended considerably more money in obtaining reports and investigating the property; and when at the first statutory meeting it would be found that a large sum of money had been expended in that way, although a gold mining company might not suffer so much, he claimed that such a disclosure would create a great amount of suspicion in connection with an industrial company.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said that the speech of the hon. Member for the Romford Division had entirely convinced him of the wisdom of voting for the Amendment. He could not understand why the law officers objected to an Amendment which had for its object the giving of information to the *bona fide* investor as to what had taken place. If the hon. Member for the Romford Division were correct in his suggestion, then a promoter, whether of a gold mine or an industrial concern, would be allowed to palm it off on the public at any price he thought fit, and at any profit he could collar. That argument was utterly futile. What objection could there be to the promoter supplying information as to the amount of money which had been spent on obtaining reports? The hon. Member for Northampton charged certain members of the solicitors' profession with putting their names on prospectuses, and it was true that solicitors in the lower branches of the profession did that without ascertaining what the prospectus contained or disclosed, and they required a fee of one thousand guineas for doing it. He could not understand why the two law officers of the Crown should object to the Amendment. It seemed to make clear that the statutory meeting should be something more than a gathering of promoters, directors, and the seven signatories to the Articles of Association, and that it should be a gathering where the shareholders would be given some information as to what had taken place. If the Bill were meant to strike at dishonest promoters, then the Amendment should be accepted, because it might have the effect of compelling dishonest or hungry promoters to disgorge some of their spoil.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 249.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (South'ton
Fenwick, Charles
Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. J.
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Labouchere, Henry
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'nsC)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Richards, Henry Charles
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tollemache, Henry James
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (H'dd'rsf'd
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lawson Walton and Sir Albert Rollit.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M H (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Davies Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (Cy of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt Hn G J (St. George's
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lafone, Alfred
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Monckton, Edward Philip
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donal Ninian
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Round, James
Royd, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanark)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Other Amendments made.

MR. BANBURY said he wished to move the following Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton. Unless this Amendment were carried, he held that very considerable hardship would be entailed on innocent people. In the event of the charge on the stock of a company not being registered, the people who had subscribed for that stock would be deprived of their security and would rank only as ordinary creditors. It was said that those people must go to a judge and say that their contract had been entered into on false representation; but he would point out that they generally were widows or clergymen who had saved a few hundred pounds, and they did not know where to go or what to do. If it was a large investor he would register the charge; but it was absurd that small people scattered all over the country should come to London and register their security. Again, it was said that the certificate which they received would bear upon its back the fact that the security was registered; but what if the endorsement was forged? Seven days was too short a time in which to register a debenture or a mortgage.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 38, to leave out from the word 'company' to the word 'secured,' in page 12, line 3, inclusive, and insert the words 'be registered in manner required by this Act within twenty-one days after the date of its creation.'"—(*Mr. Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'registered,' in line 41, stand part of the Bill."

MR. RITCHIE said that this Amendment was vital to the clause and to the scheme of the Bill as far as the registration of mortgages was concerned. If it were accepted by the House it would destroy the object which the Government had in view in framing the clause. Some of the worst cases that had been brought to the notice of the public in connection with company formation were in connection with the kind of company of which he would give an illustration. A man turned a private business, perhaps of an unsatisfactory character, into a company, and shares were taken in it by himself or some of his nominees. He then issued debentures, which were secured on all the property, so called, of the company, including not only the buildings, machinery, and plant, but the whole movable and immovable property of the company. The business went on for an indefinite period, and then came the inevitable smash. Then, what was the fate of the creditor? He might have sent in goods to the extent of thousands of pounds within a comparatively recent period of the formation of the company, and he found that the original promoter had got a claim over the whole property of the concern, including those goods, although the creditor had had no notice whatever of the existence of the charge, which was in the hands of the promoters of this nefarious company. That was why the Government considered it imperative that there should be no mistake about the registration. He had tried every means he could think of for giving effective protection, but could find none, except by insisting on registration, which would secure that creditors would have full knowledge of what was going on. Nothing else would be of any avail. As to the objection that failure to register might entail hardship upon an innocent holder, he pointed to the numerous safeguards which surrounded this undoubtedly onerous clause. First of all, by Section 7 the company had to be registered. Then by Section 16 it was the duty of the company to register every mortgage and charge created by the company. But that was not all. Under Section 20, directors who did not see that the charge was registered became liable to a fine of £100. Then there was the liability under the general law of every director to a person who might be aggrieved by non-registration. Further, Sections 6 and 16 provided for the endorsement of every debenture; and another section provided that a summary of the charges on the company should be sent to the registrar, who, if on examination he found the charges not registered, could either himself take proceedings under this Act, or the Board of Trade could do so. He could not see where the difficulties mentioned by his hon. friend could arise. Then there was the safeguard of an appeal to the court, which could, if anyone was damnified, order registration to take place. Lastly, the debenture-holder himself could compel registration. In any case, he was satisfied that, without this clause, one of the worst frauds in connection with company organisation would be left untouched, and creditors would find themselves in the same hole as they often found themselves in now.

MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) hoped that the Government would adhere to their position as to this clause. He had no sympathy with the main provisions of the Bill. He believed that all this specific legislation as to what directors were to do and what the officers of a company were to do was on entirely false lines. It dulled the consciences of courts and juries, and led them not to apply good sensible doctrines of fraud and misrepresentation, and to look to the performance of specific duties as satisfying the claims which a company had on its directors and officers. But when he came to this clause he gave the Government his heartiest support. He could not see why they should allow charges upon the property of a company to be other than public charges. The first subsection was limited as to registration of charges for the purpose of securing the issue of debentures; but he would willingly have seen that a mortgage or charge of any kind should be registered in the case of a company. He would accept gratefully any attempt to bring into greater publicity all charges against a company. It was utterly impossible to prevent these frauds unless this registration were required, and he hoped that the Government would insist that without this registration all these charges should be void both against the liquidators and against the creditors. He trusted that, for the protection of the general public, they would take upon themselves this responsibility, and that when the registrar had given his certificate of registration that should be conclusive. If this were done, the public would have reasonable protection, and the perpetration of these frauds on the public would become impossible.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR ventured to think that the clause as it now stood would in some cases inflict hardship and protect the swindlers against the small investor. He was convinced that in some cases debenture holders only found out that their security was invalid when they received their debentures and had paid their money, and then the time for registration of the stock would have expired, and great injustice would be committed. He thought also that if the trustees were made liable to pay up hundreds and thousands of pounds because the company had not registered their stock, good men would be deterred from acting as trustees. Another thing he was afraid of was that the fine of £100 would fall severely on small holders.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS (Southampton) said that this Bill, as a whole, reminded him of the Merchandise Marks Act which the hon. Member for Sheffield was supposed to have carried into law. Its effect would be to hinder the investment of English capital in foreign undertakings. To come to the point before the House, he wished to point out that in the carrying on of foreign undertakings they were obliged to borrow money months, sometimes more than a year, before the mortgage could be properly registered. Take a country like Chili: supposing that for some reason or another it was determined to carry on a great undertaking in that country; they would have to create debentures, and the public would have to take those debentures upon the character of the undertaking. Now, if they were to impose on the directors a condition that they could not issue debentures or give valid security unless they registered them under a certain number of days, all he could say was that they could never raise debenture stock. In Chili for certain reasons they were obliged to wait until the courts authorised the registration, and to his own knowledge it had taken over a year to register a mortgage and make it a real mortgage on property. That applied not only to Chili, but to many other countries abroad where Britons invested a large amount of capital. He noticed that there were several classes of Amendments making the registration compulsory in seven days, twenty-one days, three months, etc.; but they could not give what it was sought to give—namely, security to the investor—if they tied him down to a date when it was perfectly impossible to get hold of the security in order to get a charge upon it. He believed that seven days, twenty-one days, or three months were equally inapplicable to cases where large amounts of British capital were invested.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT thought that his hon. friend had overlooked the next sub-section in the clause, which enabled the time of registration to be extended. His hon. friend had pointed out the hardship of debenture-holders not being able, owing to the failure of registration, to secure their investments. But he also overlooked the words of Sub-section 7, by which any person interested in the charge might register; it appeared that even a debenture-holder alone, if he supposed the duty of the company had not been performed, would be at liberty to effect registration and so prevent hardship. The reason which induced the Departmental Committee to make this stringent regulation had been pointed out by the President of the Board of Trade. The principle which influenced the Departmental Committee in casting the obligation upon the company and upon the holders of the security was, that registration could best be enforced by making it the duty of those whose interest it was that registration should be effected, and that seemed to be a right principle. The provisions in the Act of 1862 for registration in a limited form had become a dead letter, and that dead letter had carried more misfortune to shareholders and creditors than probably any other portion of the company law.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) thought the object of registration had been somewhat misapprehended. The object was not to validate a mortgage, but to give notice to creditors of its existence. He had no sympathy with the complaint with regard to the parlous position in which trustees for debenture holders would be placed by this provision. The hon. Gentleman opposite seemed to think that a trustee should receive a certain payment in consideration of his name being used, but that he should have no duties whatever to discharge. The object of a trustee was to give the debenture holders an assurance that their debentures were well secured. There would be nothing in this provision to deter a good man from taking the position of trustee, but there would be something to deter a bad man doing so, and refusing to perform the duties incident to the position.

MR. H. S. FOSTER believed that every Member of the House agreed as to the desirability and necessity of requiring companies to keep proper registers of their mortgages and charges, but the point upon which some differed from the Government was as to the penalty to be attached to the non-observance of that

wise and proper registration. The President of the Board of Trade had said that this was an onerous clause, and the hon. Member for South Islington had described it as a stringent clause, and there was no doubt they were right. The clause cast a statutory duty upon certain officials of a company, and upon no one else, to see that there was a registration of mortgages and charges, but the clause punished not only the official upon whom the statutory obligation was cast, but also those who could not by any possibility be held responsible for non-registration. That was a very serious situation. A statement had been issued by the Parliamentary Committee of the Incorporated Law Society, a body which included some of the best known and most eminent lawyers in London. Among the members of that committee were the hon. and learned Member for North Islington and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton. The statement of this committee, which had been adopted by the Council of the Incorporated Law Society, contained the following in regard to this clause—

"The committee quite appreciate the desirability in the public interest that provision should be made for the public registration of mortgages, etc., of companies. But whilst provision is made for such registration, care must be taken that nothing is done to prevent the free raising by companies of money on debenture or debenture stock, or to impair the security which debenture holders or stock holders rightly expect they will receive for their money. To avoid the security of a debenture stock holder because his security is not registered would strike a blow at such security which would effectually prevent companies from raising money by such means and prevent the development of limited company enterprise. The cases of a debenture stock holder for, say, £1,000, part of an issue of, say, £1,000,000, and an ordinary lender of £1,000 to a private individual, are quite different. In the case of a loan of £1,000 to a private individual, the lender makes his own bargain, and he has only himself to blame if he neglects to register his security. Applicants for debenture stock in many cases live in the country. To make such persons within seven days after the allotment of the stock (which it is submitted is in law the creation of the stock) go to Somerset House and see whether the necessary registration of the security has been made, would be intolerable and would be perfectly impracticable. By all means impose penalties upon the officers of a company who can control the registration if they fail in their duty to register, but on no account interefere with the security of the man who applies *bona fide* on the strength of a prospectus, and has no control over the registration or non-registration of the security promised to be given to him and on the faith of which he has parted with his money.”

That statement was made by a body of solid men whose opinions were entitled to great weight in the House, and it appeared to commend itself as common sense. By all means let penalties be imposed, and if they were not sufficiently heavy let them be made heavier; let it be made a serious offence for those officials whose duty it was to register to fail in their duty. But, after all, the creditor was not in quite the same position as the debenture holder. The creditor before he gave credit generally made some inquiries, and the fact that there had been one or two cases in which fraud had been committed on creditors by collusive charges being given for the purpose of defrauding those creditors was surely not sufficient justification for striking a blow at the validity of the security of the charge when once that charge had been validly created.

Mr. BOUSFIELD pointed out that this was really a question of hardship between two sets of innocent people. One set must suffer, and, on the whole, he thought it would be more in accord with various analogies if the one to suffer in this case was the debenture holder.

Mr. BOND said the view to be taken of the propriety of this clause and the Amendment depended a good deal upon the opinion held as to the efficacy of the safeguards to be provided. The suggestion was that certain classes of mortgages and charges ought to be registered, in order that people who were asked to deal with the company might know all the circumstances of the company and what charges were likely to come in before them if anything happened to the concern. The efficacy of that suggestion depended on whether intending creditors would search the register. The register was to be kept in London, and it was very doubtful whether a trader in Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Plymouth would, except in very exceptional cases, inform himself as to the state of the mortgage register. If that was so, the endeavour to protect that class of person would not be very successful. On the other hand, in the case of an omission to register, a very serious wrong would be inflicted upon perfectly innocent persons. On the whole, there seemed to be some doubt as to whether any distinct and definite advantage would be given to the intending creditor by insisting on this registration, and he should support the Amendment

Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE, who spoke amid cries of “Divide,” was understood to say that, although he voted for the Amendment in Committee, he was satisfied by the debate which had just taken place that he was wrong in so doing, and he should, therefore, now vote against the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 150; Noes, 29. (Division List No. 250.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beach, Rt Hn Sir. M. H. (Bristol)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, Arthur
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duckworth, James
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt Hn. G. J. (St. Geor's
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.

Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Hoare,EdwBrodie(Hampstead
Holland, William Henry
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long,Col.Chas.W.(Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macaleese, Daniel
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Monckton, Edward Philip
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pease, Herb.Pike(Darlington)
Peel,Hn.WmRobertWellesley
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,RtHonSirMatthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Welby,Lt.-ColACE(Taunton)
Wharton,Rt. Hon.JohnLloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Bir
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, Henry J.(York,W.R.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Woods, Samuel
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork,N.E.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(CityofLond
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Horniman, Frederick John
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lowles, John
MacDonnell,DrMA(Queen'sC
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan,WPritchard(Merthyr
Morton,Edw.J.C. (Devonport)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Robson, William Snowdon
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tully, Jasper
Warr, Augustus Frederick

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Banbury and Sir Francis Evans.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 11, line 41, to leave out the word 'registered,' and insert the words 'file with the registrar for registration.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he desired to raise a very important question. Clause 16 required registration within seven days after the date of creation, but the Amendment he had put down proposed that this period should be three months. He might point out that he was not wedded to any particular period.

MR. RITCHIE: I am willing to accept twenty-one days.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he should prefer to hear the opinion of the House as to whether twenty-one days or three months was most acceptable.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 1, to leave out the words 'seven days,' and insert the words 'three months.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'seven days' stand part of the Bill.'"

MR. RITCHIE: I do not think this period ought to be so long as three months. I agree with my hon. friend that seven days is too short, and I would suggest that he might accept the terms of the Amendment standing next on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for West Wolverhampton, which provides that the period should be twenty-one days.

MR. MOULTON said that if twenty-one days were allowed surely that ought to be enough. He agreed that no time ought to be lost in registering. He did not think anyone would agree to subscribe for debentures which had not been properly registered.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS said he did not exactly understand the object of the effort which was being made by this proposal. Were they not by this proviso opening the door to fraud on the part of the man who subscribed for debentures? He did not believe that the proposal would afford any protection either to the lender or the creditor, whether the period fixed was seven or twenty-one days. They were practically asking the lender to lend his money upon an imaginary security, and they were opening the door to very great fraud. He was opposed both to seven and twenty-one days, and the directors should be obliged to register at once what they intended to do, in order that the lender or creditor might see for himself exactly what was proposed. By this proposal they would open the door to fraud as against the creditor and the lender, and the Bill would do much harm and no possible good.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I should like to point out that what this clause aims at is to give notice. It gives notice to all the world that the company has created this security upon its property. That is precisely what is done with reference to a bill of sale. This clause seems to me to meet the case completely. It provides that—

> "Where the mortgage or charge comprises property outside the United Kingdom, it shall be sufficient compliance with the requirements of this section, if a deed purporting to specificially charge such property be registered notwithstanding that further proceedings may be necessary to make such mortgage or charge valid or effectual according to the law of the country in which such property is situate."

That appears to me to entirely cover the case mentioned by my hon. friend. I think seven days is too short a period, but I hope the Government will not go beyond twenty-one days, because I think all these difficulties are perfectly imaginary, and I cannot see where they will arise. It is a very simple and straightforward transaction, and will put an end to what has been the very worst type of fraud that has been committed in connection with companies.

MR. H. S. FOSTER: I am willing to accept twenty-one days, and I will withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 12, line 1, to leave out the words 'seven days' and insert the words 'twenty-one days.'"—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 12, line 5, after the word 'shall' to insert the words 'so far as that property is concerned.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 12, line 36, after the word 'secured' to insert the words 'shall be conclusive evidence of the requirements of this section as to registration having been complied with.'"—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR FRANCIS EVANS said by this proposal they were going to make the public think that there was a real charge upon the property, and this would open the door to great fraud. What the public would think by those words was that they had secured a mortgage upon the property, and by the insertion of these words they would emphasise the belief that there was a mortgage and security when there really was none whatever. He thought these words would make things worse than they were before, for they would merely add to the delusion of the public, and would be productive of much harm.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY replied that he could not help thinking that the observations of the hon. Member were simply a repetition of the observations which he directed against the clause generally.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS: Exactly.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said they had decided that matter, and what they were now dealing with was whether the certificate was to be conclusive evidence that the requirements had been complied with. He really could not see that any member of the public would be deceived by this provision.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 5, to leave out Sub-section 8."—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

MR. H. S. FOSTER: Can we have some explanation why this sub-section is to be left out?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It is simply a consequential Amendment

SIR FRANCIS EVANS contended that this was another way of deceiving the public. They provided in this sub-section that they should substantially disclose the nature of the security, and now they proposed to take out that proviso. The nature of the security was the only guarantee that it was a security at all. Those investing money wanted to know exactly the nature of the security, and if the directors were obliged to state that this security was no security at all until the Government of a foreign country really acknowledged it, it was essential for the protection of the lender of money in this country that they should substantially disclose the nature of that security. Without the sub-section the person who took up debentures would be deceived into believing that registration in this country was a guarantee, whereas it would be of no value in respect of property situate abroad. He quite disagreed with the Government in their decision to withdraw this sub-section, because it was necessary for the protection of the public in the industrial undertakings which they possessed in foreign countries. He should certainly vote against this proposal.

MR. LABOUCHERE said the views expressed by his hon. friend the Member for Southampton were not a mere phantom, but were a practical reality. What his hon. friend meant was that if a company with a large amount of property abroad issued a certificate of debentures stating that those debentures had been registered, the persons buying those bonds would be under the impression that the registration held good, whereas it did not hold good in regard to that property until the obligations with regard to registration were fulfilled abroad. Sub-section 8 provided that—

"The registration of a mortgage or charge in pursuance of this section shall not be invalid merely by reason of any inaccuracy in the particulars registered provided that they substantially disclose the nature of the security."

A great many companies had property abroad, and they issued debentures which were absolutely worthless, and when a person saw those debentures registered here he would think that that was a guarantee of security to him in regard to the property of the company, whereas it was no such thing. If his hon. friend went to a division he should certainly vote with him, because he really thought they were making a great mistake. He agreed that it might not be necessary to disclose all mortgages, but there were a great many innocent people who took these bonds, and he did not think their interests should be sacrificed for the benefit of others.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON pointed out that if a charge was given which was worthless, the person who held that charge had a property of no value, because it was a mortgage upon property which had no value. The provision of this clause was simply that that charge should be registered for what it was worth. How such a provision could be construed into an injustice he was at a loss to understand. Surely it could not be worth either more or less because it was to be registered in this country. The suggestion that there might be some person who had lent his money upon the assumption that the security was valuable because it was registered, assumed a state of ignorance which was not supported by ordinary experience.

MR. BRYCE: It appears to me that if my hon. friend the Member for Northampton and the hon. Member for Southampton think what is attributed to them by the hon. Member for South Leeds, his argument is against them. But I understand them to mean something different. I take it they were thinking not of a creditor, but of the person who takes the debentures. Therefore, the argument of my hon. friend does not appear to me to be relevant. Sub-section 2 makes them believe that they have a valuable charge when they have got nothing of the kind. I do not think that the leaving out of this sub-section will meet my hon. friends' view. All we can do now is to appeal to the Government to consider the point with a view of seeing whether they can introduce words in Sub-section 2 which will meet the point raised. It seems to me that it is a point which deserves consideration when the Bill goes to another place.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said it was conceded that the holder of the security knew that his security was valueless unless it was registered in a foreign country. If that was so, surely he was defrauded whether there was registration or not. That fraud existed at the present time, and, therefore, he assumed that there could be no fraud except upon terms of which the debenture-holder was aware. He would not be deprived of that knowledge when he learned that the registration had been in this country only, because he would know that registration only gave him notice that he would not be displaced by subsequent creditors lending money. The imperfection by reason of the non-registration remained exactly where it was before, and it was neither increased nor diminished by this proposal.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 18, after the word 'company to insert the words, 'provided that where a series of debentures containing any charge to the benefit of which the debenture holders of that series are entitled *pari passu* is created by a company, it shall be sufficient for the company to keep an entry of the following particulars—(a) the total amount secured by the whole series; (b) the dates of the resolutions creating the series and of the covering deed, if any, by which the security is created or defined; (c) a general description of the property charged; and (d) the names of the trustees for the debenture holders."—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said his right hon. friend was willing to accept an Amendment in other words, which would meet the object of his hon. friend.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): Then I withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13 line 18, after the word 'company,' to insert the words, 'provided that in the case of a series of uniform debentures a copy of one such debenture shall be sufficient.'" —(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 19, to leave out from the word 'court' to the word 'may,' in line 25." —(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY agreed to some extent with the principle enunciated by the mover of the Amendment, but it was hardly right to throw the matter at the House without giving any grounds. The same objection did not seem to apply to the next Amendment, in the name of the hon. Member for Walsall, and he should be willing to accept that.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE formally moved—

"In page 13, line 25, after 'company,' to insert 'or that on other grounds it is just and equitable to grant relief.'"

SIR FRANCIS EVANS asked whether this provision would enable the judge to look into the matter as to whether a foreign Government had had time to enable such mortgage to be registered.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY reminded the hon. Member that the section merely imposed an additional requirement in order to validate a mortgage given by a company. It was not in any way to render valid in a foreign country that which would not be valid if the Bill were not passed.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 40, to leave out from the word 'company,' to the word 'pounds,' in page 14, line 4, inclusive, and insert the words 'the company, and every director, manager, and other officer of the company who knowingly and wilfully authorised or permitted such default shall, without prejudice to any other liability, be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds; and if any person knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the delivery of any debenture or certificate of debenture stock required by this Act to be registered, without a copy of the certificate of the registrar being indorsed upon it, he shall, without prejudice to any other liability, be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'responsible,' in page 14, line 2, stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Remaining words omitted.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LAWSON WALTON said the language of the original clause was that if any company made default in complying with the requirements of the Act certain penalties should attach, and the two defaults were entirely distinct in character. The first was as to the registration of the debentures, and the second was as to the duty of seeing that each certificate of debenture stock had endorsed upon it a certification that the debenture had been registered. "Default" was a word which comprehended not only intentional but negligent disregard of duty, and in the original clause the liability certainly attached to officers of the company who negligently omitted to register a debenture or to take the necessary steps to give each holder of debenture stock the necessary certification. The clause proposed to be substituted used language which, probably not intentionally, but certainly effectually, excluded all cases of default attributable to negligence. He therefore desired to move the insertion of the words "or negligently" after the words "knowingly and wilfully" in each case. This Amendment was of enormous importance to the perfectly innocent class of person who might hold the debentures of a company. Those debentures by the present law were valid, whether registered or not, but by the operation of this clause their validity would be contingent on their having been registered. It was essential that it should be somebody's duty, not merely if he thought of it, to take the necessary care to see that the debenture-holder had upon the certificate of his debenture an intimation that the debenture had been registered. He did not say that many officers would wilfully do it, but scores would negligently omit to take the necessary steps, and it was necessary to do something to ensure that persons who negligently omitted to do their duty should be made responsible by means of such a provision as he now proposed.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'wilfully,' to insert the words 'or negligently.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY pointed out that the clause in its original form, as regards one branch, applied only to persons who "knowingly" authorised or permitted the delivery of any debenture stock without the certificate being endorsed thereon. He reminded the House that the penalty with which they were dealing was a very severe one, it being £100 for each default. Surely in such a case it was not too much to say that the persons to whom the liability attached should be persons who could be shown to have knowingly evaded the law. It would be a very serious step to apply that penalty to persons who had been guilty only of negligence, and therefore he hoped the Amendment would be negatived.

MR. MOULTON trusted the House would not listen to the Amendment. This was a fine example of how men even of the eminence of the mover of the Amendment, as soon as the words "limited company" were mentioned, seemed to lose all sense of proportion. What was the House asked to do? Here was a question of endorsing a notice of registration on a security which came to a man who had bought it and whose business it was to look over it and see that it was in order. Was it suggested that a clerk who had forgotten to do what was provided, although he never had any intention of violating the law, because he was sleepy or careless, ought to be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding £100? Surely they would not get things in a better state if they lent themselves to such exaggerated notions of punishing everybody connected with a company for mere inattention. To suggest that mere inattention should be punished in this way seemed to him to be out of all proportion to the offence.

MR. LABOUCHERE said that if a clerk was sleepy this proposal would wake him up. But it would not affect clerks so much as directors, and there must be some sort of guarantee. It was proposed to put in words to the effect that punishment was to be inflicted if the clerk wilfully or negligently did a certain thing. But how could they tell whether he did a thing wilfully or negligently? The fact was that this thing had been done in the past, and this was a proposal to prevent it being done in the future. He was perfectly certain that they would get more fairness from these men, and they would not be so negligent as they would be if there was not some punishment fixed. He should have liked to see this Amendment moved from the other side of the House, where there seemed to be a sort of family arrangement, for not a single Amendment had been accepted from this side of the House. It was a very remarkable thing that all the Amendments from the other side should be accepted.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS said this was trying to impose penalties by law in a way in which it was perfectly impracticable and unworkable. It was not possible for a director of a large company to make perfectly certain that in all these matters he was protected by what was set forth in this paragraph. To impose £100 for each offence was really an absurdity.

Question put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said it was the practice of some companies to supply the information he desired to provide for voluntarily to the debenture holders, and he hoped his right hon. friend would accept his Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 22, after the word 'meeting,' to insert the words 'a copy of such report and balance-sheet shall be sent to every registered holder of debentures or debenture stock within seven days after such general meeting.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped his hon. friend would not press this Amendment, because a great deal of expense would be incurred to put it in operation.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to propose that Clause 26 be left out. This clause proposes to extend the operation of Section 2 of the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1870, to a case in which a company shall be deemed to be in course of winding up when a petition for the winding up of the company has been presented. This Act provides that where a company is in course of liquidation by the Court it is possible for an arrangement or compromise to be made between the company and its creditors, and that that arrangement shall be binding if a majority representing three-fourths in value of the creditors agree to the compromise. The effect of Clause 26 would be very detrimental. Section 2 of the Act of 1870 was intended for companies unable to meet their obligations, and it was provided that as everybody could not be paid in full an arrangement might be made by which they could make some concession and accept something less than their rights. In the case of a *bona fide* liquidation this may be the only way of doing the best for all the people connected with the company. If you extend that provision so as to allow a company, without any order and without a company going into liquidation at all, to force a compromise by a three-fourths majority upon a minority, and compel the minority to accept less, it is obvious that you are giving a very wide and what may become a very dangerous extension of the principle of compelling people to accept less than they ought to get. Is it right to put into operation the power of a majority of three-fourths when the minority may be unwilling to submit to the compromise, and when the object may be merely to get money on more favourable terms? I moved a similar Amendment upstairs, and on that occasion the Attorney General appeared to think that it was not a dangerous proposal, and he undertook to consider it. If the Attorney General thinks my Amendment to leave out Clause 26 goes too far, I am quite willing to move to leave out simply the first part.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 24, to leave out Clause 26."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the second section of the Companies Act of 1870 provided for certain facilities for arrangements in the case of companies which were in the course of being wound up, either voluntarily or under the supervision of the court. He thought there was a great deal of force in the proposal made in the first part of the clause, which provided that the company should be deemed for this purpose to be in the course of winding up merely if the petition for the winding up had been presented. A company was not in course of winding up until it was being wound up; the mere presentation of a petition had no effect until an order followed on the petition. It was in reference to that part of the section, and that part only, that he expressed the opinion to which reference had been made. He gathered that the right hon. Gentleman would be satisfied if the Government struck out the earlier part of the section, and he was prepared to agree to that on their behalf.

MR. BRYCE entirely accepted the promise of the Attorney General; it completely met his doubts with regard to the clause, and he would therefore withdraw the Amendment, and move to strike out only the first part of the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BRYCE formally moved to omit the first part of the clause, down to the end of line 27.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BRYCE formally moved to insert before line 28 the words, "The provisions of Section 2 of the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1870."

Amendment agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE, in rising to move the omission of Clause 28, said he would not at that hour of the night move an Amendment of such a character if it were not of very great importance. The clause was not in the Bill as originally introduced, but was brought in by the influence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen. Under the existing law, if a company was in course of liquidation, the official receiver could summon the directors to a private examination. If, under the Act of 1890, the official receiver reported that in his opinion fraud had been committed in the promotion or formation of the company, the court might publicly examine certain persons. It was for some time thought that if fraud had been alleged by the official receiver against any person, not only that person but also any other person connected with the company might be publicly examined. The House of Lords, however, had decided that that construction of the Act was wrong, and that only the person whom the liquidator *prima facie* suspected of fraud might be subjected to the terrible ordeal of a public examination. On that occasion Lord Herschell used very strong language on the subject, to the following effect—

> "If their construction is right you have this preposterous result. You have A, we will say, inculpated in the report on a charge of fraud. It is suggested that B and C were co-directors with him or co-officials of some kind or other, and you have an order made and, as they say, properly made, for the examination of not only A, but B and C also, and on the examination it turns out none of these persons were to blame. Then A applies for his costs. 'Yes,' say the Court, 'you were exculpated, and we will give you your costs'; but when B and C come the answer is, 'No; you have not been exculpated because you were never charged, and therefore you must bear the expenses yourself.' Such legislation would be nothing short of preposterous. The only construction of the legislation that can make it reasonable is that no persons can be ordered to attend and be examined at their own expense but those who are *prima facie* inculpated."

In this clause, however, the Government were proposing to do the very thing which the House of Lords had declared to be preposterous, and ought not to be done. He hoped the Government would go back to its first love, and consent to omit this clause from the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 34, to leave out Clause 28.—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY admitted the accuracy of the statement of the hon. Member with regard to the decision of the House of Lords upon the language of Section 8 of the Companies Winding-up Act, 1890, and he did not for one moment suggest that the decision of the highest legal tribunal in the land was incorrect, having regard to the wording of the clause. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that the effect of the words was entirely at variance with the intentions of those who were responsible for bringing in the Bill, and, as he believed, of the House when it passed it. That, of course, was a matter into which no court could go when construing a section, and the decision of the House of Lords had reference to the wording of the clause and that alone. What, after all, was the result of this section? There had to be a report charging some particular person with fraud before an order could be made for the examination of any person, and the person so to be examined must be the person charged with fraud in the report of the official receiver. The effect of the change proposed would be merely that if the official receiver reported that there had been fraud in connection with a company, the order for the examination must be made.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE: Of everybody?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Of any person connected with the company. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had declared that that was certainly the intention when the Bill was introduced. There really did not seem to be anything so very terrible about the fact that if a fraud had been reported an order must be made for the public examination of anyone connected with the company. That was the extent of the proposal, and he hoped the House would adhere to it.

MR. BRYCE said it was extremely undesirable to throw upon a Department like the Board of Trade the responsibility of bringing a charge against a particular person. It was quite right that the official receiver should report that he was satisfied there were grounds for believing there had been fraud in the inception or management of a company, but that was quite different from throwing upon an official of such a Department the duty of imputing fraud against any particular person.

MR. MOULTON drew attention to the fact that the only person who could recover costs in such cases was the person who exculpated himself. He thoroughly agreed with the Attorney General as to the advisability of the examination of all persons in such a case as was suggested; but would it not be necessary, in order that injustice should not be done to innocent people, to make some further provision with regard to costs. Those who had not been charged would not come within the words "exculpate themselves," and they would therefore not be able to recover costs. Surely this clause ought not to be passed without some consideration of that point.

SIR EDWARD CARSON explained that the effect of the proposal was merely that where there was fraud any person might be called and examined. There did not appear to be anything very hard in the fact that if the person was not exculpated from the charge of fraud he should get no costs.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE reminded the right hon. and learned Member that the House of Lords had distinctly decided that people who were not charged with fraud could not get their costs.

MR. BOND said that persons might be put to considerable expense, even though no charges were made against them, and not being persons exculpated they would not be entitled to recover costs.

MR. RITCHIE: I think the question which the hon. and learned Gentleman has raised is one which ought to be considered, and I will agree to consider the question.

MR. LAWSON WALTON contended that there could be no exculpation without a charge, and the only person who could get his costs was the person against whom the charge was made. That was the decision of the House of Lords. If they got a report which made no charge there could be no exculpation, and there was no jurisdiction to provide for the costs. They might get the case of a number of directors who were publicly examined, and yet there was no arrangement for their costs. If the right hon. Gentleman proposed to look into the question he should do so with the intention of doing full justice to the decision of the House of Lords.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central) moved the omission of Clause 29. He said he regretted that it would be necessary for him to go at some length in the way of explaining why he made this proposal. The clause had been introduced upon the motion of his hon. friend the Member for Peckham, but he had been unable to ascertain that the clause had been called for by any public opinion in the country. It was a perfectly unworkable proposal, and the only people who would get any good from it would be the lawyers. The result of the clause would undoubtedly be to prevent some of the most regular transactions in respect to companies; it would greatly interfere with the reconstruction and amalgamation of companies, and it would almost prohibit a profitable sale. He would like to know what justification there was for the clause being proposed at all. This was simply a question of existing contracts between two parties, a lender and a borrower, and the clause proposed to alter the contract in the interest of one party, and that the lender. It was urged in favour of the clause that money-lenders did not know the terms on which they were lending, but such ignorance must be extremely limited. The question was whether this House was going to vary the existing conditions between shareholders and debenture-holders which would affect considerably millions of capital. There was another person to the contract besides the lender, and that was the borrower. He entered upon terms perfectly well known, and in case of winding up he should be able to repay the money at par. There were cases of great amalgamations going on every day where numerous little companies came together and formed one company, and none of these could be affected under this clause without the shareholders paid a very heavy fine to the debenture holders. He knew the case of a company where they went to the Stock Exchange and they were informed of the resolution which had been passed by the Stock Exchange in November, 1896, not to grant any more quotations unless the price named for redemption was embodied in the trust deed, and the Stock Exchange required them to insert that clause. Of course they said they would do nothing of the sort. The debentures had to run for 100 years, and they could not foresee what 100 years might bring forth. That company absolutely declined to accede to the request of the Stock Exchange Committee, but in the end they got their quotation. It was that very right that they insisted upon preserving, and it was that right which was attempted to be taken away by this clause. The result would be that the greater the necessity of the shareholders the greater would be the fine to be exacted from them. He agreed that in the case of an insolvent company the debenture holders would only be too glad to do this, but the debenture holders were amply secured, and it might not suit the shareholders to continue the business. He should have liked to say a great deal upon this point, for he wished to plead for the rights of the shareholders, which were being taken away under this clause. The shareholders would be the mere slaves of the debenture holders without profit to themselves, or else they would have to pay blackmail to the debenture holders. Everyone knew what the effect of this clause would be. Was there ever such a remarkable piece of drafting as was contained in this clause? What was the meaning of "redeemable debenture or preference stocks or shares"? Whoever heard of such a thing? Then the clause went on to say that such stocks and shares shall not be paid off "before the due date." What was the due date? There was another side to this beautiful clause. If no debenture was to be paid off before the due date they would lose their right to demand their money in case of going into liquidation. There was no provision in the clause for ascertaining the opinion of the debenture holders. The whole clause was a most indifferent piece of drafting; it was impossible to know really what was meant. The only effect of the clause would be to inflict great hardship on shareholders throughout the length and breadth of the country, and he had never heard of contracts being varied to the detriment of one party without any reason being shown, without compensation being given. He therefore moved the omission of Clause 29.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 1, to leave out Clause 29."—(*Sir Seymour King.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the second word 'of,' in line 1, stand part of the Bill."

*MR. BANBURY said that the hon. Member who had just sat down had stated that a company being desirous of going into liquidation because it could no longer carry on business profitably would have to pay blackmail to the debenture holders. This was not correct, because the clause provided that any company could go into voluntary liquidation, without obtaining the consent of the debenture holders, by applying to the court and obtaining its consent. The clause was designed to meet what was little less than a swindle. A company issues debentures payable, say at 110, on a certain date. It finds in two or three years that its business and credit have improved, and that it can borrow money cheaper than it could when it issued its debentures. It goes into voluntary liquidation, pays its debentures off at 100, though the prospectus had stated that they would only be paid off at 110, and then issues new debentures at a lower rate of nterest. This had been done during the last four years. It was first done by a company in the Midlands. There was a lawsuit, and the debenture holders lost. A brewery company immediately followed suit, and it has been done by other companies. As to there being no provision for obtaining the consent of the debenture holders, everyone knew that they were registered, and that all the company had to do was to send round a form which the debenture holders would fill up "yes" or "no." There was something to be said for the case of a company which found it could not carry on business profitably and desired honestly to go into liquidation and pay off its debentures. If the Amendment he proposed to move later on was accepted, the clause would not apply to such a company, and no injustice would be done.

MR. MOULTON hoped the Government would not defend the clause. He hardly knew whether it was more funny or more unjust, and the drafting was such that no court could really construe it. The framers of the clause seemed to imagine that by going into voluntary liquidation a company could alter its liability. Nothing of the kind. But what was really proposed? A great many companies issued debentures only on the terms that if for any reason they gave up business they should be entitled to repay either at par or above par, or on whatever terms were stated in the debenture. Mortgage companies, which were a very solid kind of company if well managed, borrowed large sums, and as long as business went on they were willing to pay interest considerably higher than that on many other securities. But they were only willing to carry on business while they could afford to pay that high rate of interest, and one term of the debenture was that if they chose to go out of business they should be entitled to repay. If they borrowed on those terms what possible right had the House without any public need to come in and say, "Although these were the terms on which you borrowed you shall not have the advantage of them"? It would be monstrous for the House to interfere with fair contracts fully understood by both borrower and lender, just for the purpose of assisting the Stock Exchange in some of its difficulties. He trusted the House would not at the present period of the session attempt legislation on such a point, which, if gone into at all, must be gone into fully.

MR. RITCHIE said that, looking at the clause superficially, it had been thought that it afforded an opportunity of remedying what had been represented as a very considerable grievance, which had long been crying out for a remedy, and the clause was thereupon added to the Bill. But after the discussion which had taken place he thought all would recognise that if they began by interfering with this clause they would start on a very thorny and difficult subject, probably involving another evening, or perhaps longer, being devoted to the matter. That, at the period of the session at which they had arrived, would probably have the effect of wrecking the Bill, and throwing away all the labour which had been bestowed on the measure, and such a result would be a very great disaster. He was inclined to think there was a grievance in the existing state of the law which required a remedy, but it would be impossible to deal with it in the present Bill, and he would therefore appeal to his hon. friend, the Member for Peckham, to agree to the omission of the clause. The matter could then be proceeded with next session, after further consideration, in a measure by itself, if the hon. Member thought fit to take that course, and it could then receive the full consideration which the importance of the subject deserved. Speaking for the Government, he was bound to say that, having regard to the difficulties in connection with the clause, they would support the Amendment for its omission.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS said the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that the clause did not cover a great deal of what it ought to cover. The mover of the resolution to reject this clause had been opposed by the hon. Member for Peckham, who was a member of the Stock Exchange, and who had an Amendment down which did not cover the most dangerous part of this clause. The most dangerous part of this clause was that, if for any reason a sound and good company wished to amalgamate with another company, it would not be allowed to do so. Neither this clause nor the Amendment of the hon. Member for Peckham covered that point. The clause affected an enormous amount of capital. Companies had amalgamated and they had borrowed money which was not payable at once except at a large premium. Under liquidation they claimed to discharge their indebtedness at par, whereas possibly their obligation was to discharge their indebtedness at 5, 10, or even 15 per cent. premium. Supposing that, having bargained to pay 4 per cent. for ten years, those bonds being at a premium, they amalgamated with a company with large premiums, and they then proceeded to pay off at par. They had no power to give the bondholders the premium at which their bonds stood in the market. This clause ought not to be allowed to pass, and he should oppose it as much as he could, because it was a very bad clause. How was this country to stand against the competition of foreign companies if combinations of this kind were prevented? The bondholders had nothing to do with it, and they ought to have a right to pay them off, and there ought to be some protection for those who did not go to Somerset House to look at the registers, but who, upon the strength of the statements in the prospectus and the price quoted on the Stock Exchange, invested their money believing it would be redeemed by a certain date. There was a column which stated when such bonds could be paid off. When a company went into liquidation, the date might be 1920, but the true date of that bond was 1900. He thought this clause would do great injury to the people of this country if adopted.

MR. BANBURY said it would be useless to persevere with this clause after what the President of the Board of Trade had said. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman would give what facilities he could for a private Bill being introduced to remedy this state of things.

Question put and agreed to.

Remaining words omitted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 8, to leave out the word 'passing,' and insert the word 'commencement.' "—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON said he proposed to add one more to the category of documents in regard to which there was a penalty for false statements. He proposed to add the word "prospectus." He wished to impress upon the House that the prospectus was of more importance than all the other documents which appeared in this clause. There was no penalty for the insertion of a false statement in a prospectus. He was aware that the answer would be that a wilful misstatement with regard to information contained in a prospectus would be a misdemeanour at common law. It might be said also that if a false statement appeared in a prospectus with intent to defraud, the provisions of the Larceny Act were applicable. He proposed, in the interests of the directors, that this section should be amended, and he thought there was a very strong reason for moving this Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 10, after the second word 'any,' to insert the word 'prospectus.' "—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'prospectus' be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I must give my hon. and learned friend the same answer in the House as I gave him in Committee. It is not necessary to go back to the common law, because the Larceny Act deals with the case of any director circulating any statement which is fraudulent. I ask the House not to accept this Amendment which my hon. and learned friend wishes to ingraft upon the clause.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON said the second Amendment which he had upon the Paper had nothing to do with fraud, but it had to do with the intentional disregard of the provisions of the statute, and therefore it became important to understand the exact scope of the section. He submitted that if this section was to have any beneficial operation it must deal not only with deliberate false statements but with deliberate suppression of information. If they had an intentional false statement it was a disregard of the provisions of the section, and if they had an intentional suppression of some material information which a person was required to give, that would be an equal disregard of the law. It was obvious that, unless the Amendment he was moving was inserted, a person would wilfully ignore the statutory obligation if he could not with advantage falsely state the particulars required. As the clause stood there was no such remedy in such a case, and he therefore hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 13, after the word 'false,' to insert the words 'or wilfully suppresses any material particular therein, or any statement which he is hereby required to make.'"—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR EDWARD CARSON, whose remarks were inaudible in the Reporters' Gallery, was understood to oppose the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE was of opinion that the clause would be ineffective unless it applied also to suppression. Many of the worst deceits were perpetrated by suppression. The Bill ought to be drawn upon the principle of enacting that the fullest and amplest good faith should be required from a promoter or director in stating facts relating to a company; but as that, unfortunately, was not the case here, they had to do the best they could with the criminal law. This was not a case for the application of *caveat emptor*; it was a case where a person should be made to tell the truth as well as not to tell lies. If the Amendment was pressed to a division he certainly should support it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 23; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 251.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Sir Francis H (South'ton
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Horniman, Frederick John
Macaleese, Daniel
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Lawson Walton and
Mr. Labouchere.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge Sydney
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Green, Walford D. (Wedn'sb'ry
Hamilton, Rt Hon Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Malcolm, Ian
Monckton, Edward Philip
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian

Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l
Ritchie,Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Smith, James Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon Arthur(Ormskirk
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hon JG(Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunt'n)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Other Amendments made.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said a definition of a prospectus became the more necessary after the Amendments introduced by the President of the Board of Trade that evening. The prospectus contemplated by the Bill was evidently the document to be filed with the Registrar containing the statutory particulars enumerated in Clause 11. It was, however, very necessary to identify the document called the prospectus which was to contain all these various provisions. The Amendment introduced by the President of the Board of Trade clearly provided that an advertisement might appear which would not be the prospectus but an abridged prospectus. The abridged prospectus need not contain all the documents, and yet it would be an advertisement within the meaning of the definition clause. He did not know whether the Attorney General was prepared to accept the Amendment or any extension of it. He did not want to take up the time of the House in labouring the point, but he could take up a good deal of time in pointing out the difficulties which would arise if this definition of "prospectus" were to be applied to the word wherever it occurred in the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 38, to leave out from the word 'means' to the word 'company,' inclusive, in page 18, line 2, and insert the words 'a copy of the document filed or to be filed with the registrar in pursuance of Section 11,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'any prospectus, notice, circular' stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the House would not accept this Amendment, for his hon. friend had done scant justice to the definition of the word given in the clause. The Amendment was totally inadmissible, and he thought his hon. friend must be under some misconception.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE thought it would be better if this definition of prospectus could be left out altogether. In Section 11 they had a full account of what was to be done with the papers, and if they read in such a definition it would be very misleading. He did not think he was wrong in saying that the terms of Section 11 would apply to everything. Would it not be possible to omit the word altogether, for it was very confusing, and the word "prospectus" did not require any special definition any more than the word "company."

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. TOMLINSON said it was quite possible that a company might desire to put in a short advertisement, and why should they not be allowed to issue such an advertisement? A company might wish to issue an advertisement stating that they were prepared to issue so many shares, and saying that prospectuses could be had on application. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 17, line 39, after the word 'circular,' to insert the words 'or any.'"—(*Mr. Tomlinson.*)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I hope my hon. friend will not press this Amendment, for if it is accepted any one could get out of the whole provisions of the Act by the simple device of sending a mere form of application in another enclosure.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

MR. RITCHIE: I do not know whether, considering the late period of the session, the House will consent to read the Bill a third time now. Under the circumstances perhaps the House will be willing to accept the motion for the Third Reading. I therefore move "That the Bill be now read a third time."

This proposition was opposed from both sides of the House, and was not pressed.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Ritchie*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 31*st July*, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ROCHDALE CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—

M. Bath,
E. Camperdown (chairman),
L. Colchester,
L. Fermanagh (*E. Erne*),
L. Harlech ;

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

CLONTARF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 12th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 26th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a ; agreed to ; Bills read 2^a accordingly ; Committee negatived ; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

SAINT DAVID'S RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

DEVONPORT CORPORATION BILL.

HASTINGS CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SCARBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; a further Amendment made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NEWRY, KEADY, AND TYNAN LIGHT RAILWAY BILL.

MID-KENT WATER BILL.

BRAY AND ENNISKERRY RAILWAY BILL.

CHRISTCHURCH AND BOURNEMOUTH TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL.

The Queen's consent signified ; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

COVENTRY CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

TAUNTON CORPORATION BILL.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE, COMMERCIAL GAS, AND SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES BILL,

NOW

METROPOLIS GAS (PREPAYMENT METER) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

TOTTENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Read 3^a with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION BILL.

Moved, That Standing Order No. 144 be considered and dispensed with in respect of the said Bill ; agreed to. Bill read 3^a with the Amendments ; further Amendments made. Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

COSTA RICA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

An Asterisk (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

BLACKPOOL, ST. ANNE'S, AND LYTHAM TRAMWAYS BILL.

EAST LONDON WATER BILL.

ILFRACOMBE IMPROVEMENT BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (WALES) BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

BUENOS AYRES AND ROSARIO RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

IPSWICH CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

ROTHERHITHE AND RATCLIFF TUNNEL BILL [H.L.].

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD CORPORATION (WATER) BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

LONDON (ST. MARYLEBONE) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

PAISLEY WATERWORKS PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

EDINBURGH (HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES) IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, I beg to move the alterations in the Standing Orders which appear on your Lordships' Paper, and which are usually made at this time of the year. I do not think I need detain the House at any length in describing them, but I will mention shortly what they are. The first alteration extends the Examiners' Orders as to advertisements and notices to the user of land as well as to the acquisition of land. This is really not an absolute alteration. It makes clear what we thought was clear, but which does not seem to have been so. The next alteration relates to maps required when large electric manufacturing companies are started. The next is a technical alteration, and at the end there are a series of Orders which are designed to bring into operation the Scotch Private Bill Procedure Act, which comes into force on 1st January next. I do not think there is any other point to which I need call your Lordships' attention, but I shall be willing to answer any questions that may be addressed to me on the subject.

The alterations in the Standing Orders were agreed to; Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. (No. 213.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1899-1900.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Twenty-second Report of the General Prisons Board, Ireland, 1899-1900.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (IRELAND).

Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General, for the year 1899.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (SCOTLAND).

Forty-fourth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1898).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1890.

Rules made by the Board of Trade in pursuance of Section 5 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882.

NAVY (PRIZE MONEY).

Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between the 1st April, 1899 and the 31st March, 1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I have to ask the House to consider a matter which I regret to say is not strange to your deliberations, but which can never be mentioned here without arousing feelings of sympathy and grief. I have to propose an Address to Her Majesty with respect to the lamentable murder of the late King of Italy. As I have said, this is not the first time during the past half-century that the murder of heads of States, accused of no crime, and guilty of no special fault in the eyes of their subjects, has yet been carried out by the irresponsible decrees of secret societies, and under the ruthless execution of the fanatics who are chosen to accomplish such crimes. These murders have not been confined to any one political opinion. They are dictated by no thought for the peculiar system which the victim of the outrage might represent. In the last half-century we have seen the murder of three Presidents of Republics, and even to-day we can only say that we have seen the murder of two monarchs. It is a fearful roll, not only because of our sympathy for the people over whom these men, honoured, valued, and beloved, ruled, but also on account of the dark depths of human villainy and crime which it opens to our view beneath the smiling surface of society, and with which it threatens the best interests of society in the early future. It was certainly no fault of the King of Italy, no defect attached to his character, which produced the fearful calamity which we are lamenting to-day. He was a thorough Italian—the son of the man by whom Italy was founded, the inheritor of all his popularity and of many of his greatest qualities. He spared himself nothing for the benefit of his country, and watched over the slowly-growing fortunes and strength of Italy with a care that never flagged, and with a judgment that seldom failed. He showed in everything the deepest sympathy for his people. He sustained that military feeling which undoubtedly at the bottom they possess. He was deeply beloved for his own personal qualities, and also for the qualities of his Queen, to whose virtues and whose popularity and whose deep grief we all render a unanimous homage of sympathy and regret. He showed what his character was at a time which brings the force of men's strength to light—at the time of the great cholera epidemic in Naples. There are many men brave on the field of battle who would blench at the danger of contagion from the fell disease which he faced without hesitation and without stint; and nothing endeared him more to his people. He was a man unstained by any offence towards his countrymen or vice to the society to which he belonged—a man high in the esteem, belief, and homage of all his contemporaries—a man who loved his people above all things, and spent his life for them—a man whose family had given themselves to the fostering of the Italian nationality with an ardour and devoted continuance that led to constant success—it was that man that the secret societies selected and the ruthless executioner struck at in obedience to their decree. My Lords, we cannot consider these political actions, because, as I have said, all forms of political life have been equally struck at by them. We cannot consider them the result of private revenge, for there is no trace of any motive of private revenge to actuate those by whom these deeds have been done. It is nothing but that morbid thirst for notoriety which is the bane and the curse of our modern civilisation; it is that which again and again has led men to the commission of the most awful crimes, and which threatens the very existence of society if it cannot be arrested. My Lords, I shall not on this occasion diverge for a moment to speak of the remedies—if remedies there are—by which such a state of things can be met. I have never hesitated to express my own belief that, with respect to these crimes, modern society errs on the side of leniency.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Hear, hear!

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: But be that as it may, we have now but one duty, and that is to mark and record the sense which we have constantly felt for the Sovereign who has done so much to nurture the early growth of the kingdom of Italy, to express our deep sympathy for the objects which he had in view, and our profound regret that the arm on which Italy leant so strongly has, by the assassin, been struck down. We have, my Lords, to express our sympathy—it is barren, but it is the expression of a feeling which exists deeply in this whole community—and I have no hesitation in submitting to your Lordships the motion standing in my name.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to convey to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learned the assassination of Her Majesty's ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present King, on the part of this House, their abhorrence of the crime, and their sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy and with the Government and people of that country."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I rise to second the motion made by the noble Marquess. I have very little to add to what he said, for he with his usual ability and eloquence has expressed, I believe, the sentiments felt by us all. But in the first place I will say a word upon that dismal subject to which the noble Marquess referred at the commencement of his speech—the existence in our highly civilised society of a band of men, of murderers, of a more atrocious kind, perhaps, even than we knew of in ages when civilisation was not so much advanced. I agree with the noble Marquess that it is a subject for deep reflection that there should exist, not only in Monarchies but also in Republics—indeed in all civilised society, I fear—men who are perfectly ready, for motives which it is almost impossible to understand, to commit crime of the most extreme atrocity—I say extreme atrocity. There have been times when men have assassinated their enemies, have from political motives assassinated men who they believed were doing some serious injury to their country, have assassinated men who were held up to execration as tyrants. Such assassins, at all events, had motives which one can understand, however unjustifiable those acts were; but here is a case where it is not the oppressor that is singled out. It is not a man who might have created enemies by unjust or too severe government, but the man who of all others has been an honour to the class to which he belonged—the highest class in Europe—and who has been an honour to them and a benefactor to the people over whom he has ruled. I need only remind your Lordships of the assassination of the Emperor Alexander of Russia. I was two years in Russia, and I had the honour of not infrequently seeing and speaking with him, and I will say that a more humane and more benevolent man, a man who had more at heart the interests of the people over whom he ruled, never existed, and yet that man was singled out by the assassin. And now we have a man who, by universal assent, has invariably endeavoured to sustain the best interests of his country, and has invariably endeavoured to promote the liberties of his country, and has shown himself personally to have the deepest sympathy with all classes in a manner which one would suppose would have touched the hardest heart. Yet that is the man singled out for assassination. But perhaps more horrible and more atrocious—if anything could be more atrocious—was the dreadful assassination of the Empress of Austria, a lady who was, I suppose, one of the kindest, most amiable, and most beneficent that ever occupied a throne. With regard to the King of Italy, the noble Marquess has said everything on that subject, and I need add nothing to what has been said by him, but I will only make mention of this, that I believe the deep sympathy which is felt for the Royal Family and the people of Italy in every civilised country is perhaps even more felt in this country, owing to the extremely cordial and friendly relations which we have enjoyed with the Italians and their Government for many years. There is no country where, I think, we have gained more of the esteem of the population, because it is known that our sympathies have been strong with their endeavour to establish a free constitutional government. We have felt the difficulties which they have had to sustain, and that being the case I think we offer our sympathy with them with almost more emphasis than could be offered by people between whom there is not such a strong bond. As regards the future, I myself hold entirely to the opinion of the noble Marquess that there has been a tendency to treat these crimes too lightly and too leniently. I am not myself, I hope, one of those who have the least wish for indiscriminate revenge, but I do say that society is perfectly justified—nay, bound—to exercise a salutary control over and salutary punishment against those whom I do not hesitate to characterise as enemies of the human race. I most cordially second the Address.

On Question, agreed to, *nemine dissentiente.*

Ordered, That the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—YEOMANRY PRISONERS.

*THE EARL OF ERNE: My Lords, I beg to ask the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War if he has any information as to the condition of the Yeomanry prisoners at Nooitgedacht, especially with reference to the supplies of food and clothing, and their access to medical advice. A great number of these prisoners belong to Irish corps, and, although they are connected with Belfast and Dublin companies, many of them are recruited from remote parts of the country where it is exceedingly difficult to obtain news. If the noble Marquess can give any reassuring information on the subject I am sure it will be deeply appreciated by the relatives of the prisoners.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I need not assure my noble friend that we have watched with much concern over the fate of these unfortunate prisoners. The latest information which we have as to their condition is to the effect that at the time the information was supplied the food was insufficient—only 1lb. of meat per man per week being meted out to them—and that for eleven days the men had neither meat nor salt. I am very glad to say that, in spite of that, our informant reported that the general state of health of the prisoners was good, only about seventy out of 1,600 men being in hospital. There were no very serious cases. and only two deaths had been recorded. As the Boer authorities had made known their intention of giving us no information about the British prisoners except through Lord Roberts at his request, a telegram was sent on the 24th inst. to Lord Roberts, inquiring whether he could bring any pressure to bear on the Boer authorities with a view to improving the treatment of the prisoners. No reply has yet been received to this telegram. A further message has to-day been sent to Lord Roberts desiring him to use every effort to arrange with the Boer authorities for the transmission of doctors, medicines, and clothing to the prisoners in their hands. That is, I am afraid, all I am able to say, but my noble friend may rely upon our watching the case with the attention and solicitude it deserves.

POST OFFICE—HOLIDAYS.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN: I beg to ask Her Majesty's Postmaster General if the Order dated 1st November, 1898, with reference to the holidays of certain assistants in the Post Office, will have the effect of reducing such holidays from one month to twenty-one weekdays in the case of those who are in receipt of annual salaries of less than £300; also, if the customary method of determining the length of holidays regulated by grade and duties has been departed from, and one based upon salary alone adopted, with the effect of rendering the holidays for woman less than those for men performing similar work. I am quite aware that in such a vast administration as that of the Post Office there must be many ramifications which make the adjustment of matters of this kind a difficult and often complicated affair. But at the same time it is certain that any steps taken to make the position of Post Office employees favourable and convenient, so far as is consistent with due regularity and the interests of the public service, will be regarded with favour by the people of this country. As to the particular cases referred to in the question, it should be borne in mind that the female officials concerned do not rise to the position of assistant supervisors until they have gone through a vast amount of previous service, extending, I think, usually to about twenty-five years, and one of the chief attractions looked forward to in the higher position has been that of the slight increase of holiday. One can imagine, therefore, the disappointment caused by learning that the desired and reasonable boon of a month's holiday was to be reduced to twenty-one weekdays, which is, in fact, about the same as what is alloted to junior officials of only five or six years service. But the main point which I would venture to urge is that it should be more and more recognised that the provision of a holiday is a matter of necessity to health and good work, and that therefore a liberal scale might well be adopted in the case of the Post Office, where the work seems to be always increasing, though, strangely enough, the scale in that Department is, if I am rightly informed, as yet less than in some other branches of the public service.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, it must be remembered that the Department over which I preside has the largest number of employees, I suppose, of any department or firm in the world, and consequently it is necessary, however one might desire to meet their comfort and convenience, to adhere to the rules laid down by my predecessor in office. The question of holidays was gone into very closely in June, 1898, and the Order then made was confirmed in November, 1898, which was that certain female supervising officers with salaries below £300 should have after that date twenty-one days holidays. That was only in regard to the new officers. It was decided at the same time that those officers who were in the enjoyment of one month's leave should continue to have that privilege. The annual allowance of leave is fixed with reference to the salaries, which, I think, is a just rule, as the salaries are fixed with reference to the duties of the officers. In connection with this matter, I may add that we cannot relax any of the regulations with respect to London without also doing it in regard to officers performing similar duties in the provinces, and that would be all the more difficult as this is a very busy season of the year. In one particular the claim of the female officers does not compare with that of the male officers, because the former have no night duty. These are matters which were carefully considered by my predecessor when he made up his mind with regard to the question of leave. I sympathise with the wish of the noble Earl that the assistants in the Post Office should obtain longer holidays, but I do not think that in the interests of the public, after consideration has been given to the question by my predecessor, I should he justified in making any alteration in the decision arrived.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS AND OTHERS) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

CRUELTY TO WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendment made in Committee of the whole House to be received on Thursday next.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) (SALARIES, ETC.) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with. Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 212.)

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order). The Amendments proposed by the Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

OIL IN TOBACCO BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed and returned to the Commons.

CUSTOMS DUTIES (ISLE OF MAN) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

DELIVERY TO PEERS OF NOTICES AND PAPERS.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Before the House adjourns, I should like to say that the reason why I and other Members did not attend the meeting of the Standing Committee this afternoon was that no notice whatever had been sent out that the Standing Committee was to meet. It is exceedingly inconvenient that such notices should not be sent out, or should not arrive in time, and I venture to call attention to the matter in the hope that careful inquiry will be made to ascertain how this neglect has happened. I must also add that the delivery of Papers has become, if possible, more unpunctual and unsatisfactory than formerly.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

The Earl WALDEGRAVE chosen Speaker in the absence of the Lord Chancellor and the Lords Commissioners.

COMPANIES BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next; and Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. to be considered in order to their being dispensed with. —(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 214.)

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next.—(*The Lord President* [D. Devonshire.]) (No. 215.)

NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 216.)

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND) BILL (No. 217.)

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL. (No. 218.)

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

House adjourned at a quarter past Ten of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 31*st July*, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BRADFORD CORPORATION BILL.

CHARING CROSS AND STRAND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BILL.

CITY OF LONDON (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

CROYDON TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (BRIDGES) BILL.

HALIFAX CORPORATION BILL.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MORLEY CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 217, 242, 223, and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Verbal Amendments made.

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MARGATE CORPORATION BILL [Lords] (BY ORDER).

Ordered, That, in the case of the Margate Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 220 and 246, relating to Private Bills, be suspended for the remainder of the session.

Ordered, That as regards Private Bills already returned by the House of Lords with Amendments such Amendments be now considered.

Ordered, That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments such Amendments to be considered forthwith.

Ordered, That when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

ABERDEEN POLICE IMPROVEMENT BILL.

DURHAM (COUNTY OF) ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

EXETER CORPORATION BILL.

FARNWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

LANCASHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

LANCASTER CORPORATION BILL.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BILL.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 2) BILL.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

RICKMANSWORTH AND UXBRIDGE VALLEY WATER BILL.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY GAS BILL.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION BILL.

WEST HAM CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to, in pursuance of the Order of the House of this day.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 4) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL [Lords.]

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

FRASER SETTLED CHATTELS BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be read the third time.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, without amendment.

That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have agreed to Amendments to—Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords], without amendment.

PETITIONS.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL.

Petition from Nottingham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Kinning Park, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Wigan; and Pwllheli; to lie upon the Table.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Petition of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Statement in explanation of draft of an Order in Council for transferring to and making exercisable by the Board of Education certain powers of the Charity Commissioners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Copy presented, of Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board 1899-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES (ACCOUNTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd May; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 308.]

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1899 to 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Twenty-second Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) for 1899-1900, with an Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Registrar General, being for the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WAGES) (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account presented, showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between the 1st April, 1899, and 31st March, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 309.]

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th July; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1890 (RULES).

Copy presented, of Rules made by the Board of Trade in pursuance of Section 5 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 17.

Return ordered, "of Motions for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during Session II. of 1899 and the Session of 1900 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper, No. 324, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER NO. 25).

Return ordered, "respecting application of Standing Order No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session II. of 1899 and the Session of 1900, under the following heads :—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Date when Closure moved.	By whom moved.	Question before House or Committee when moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 325, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, "of the number of Divisions of the House in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900; stating the subject of the Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included; also the aggregate number in the House on each Division; distinguishing the Divisions on Public Business from Private; and also the number of Divisions before and after midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.278 of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PUBLIC BILLS.

Return ordered, "of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1900; showing the number which received the Royal Assent; the number which were passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the number passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.274, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Return ordered "of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.275 of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Return ordered, "of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1900, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No, 0.276, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, "of the number of days on which the House sat in Session II. of 1899, and in the Session of 1900, stating for each day the date of the month and day of the week, the hour of the meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.277, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS).

Return ordered, "showing, with reference to Session II. of 1889 and the Session of 1900, (1) the number of

Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had precedence; (2) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had precedence; (4) the number of Sittings at which Government Business had precedence under a special order of House; (5) the number of Saturday Sittings; (6) the total number of Sittings at which Government business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days on which Business of Supply was considered (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 326, of Session I. of 1899."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Returns ordered, "of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1900, classed according to the following subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, etc. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; and Miscellaneous. Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in the Session of 1900 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed. Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1900, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee, the number of days on which each Committee sat, and the number of days on which each Member attended; and of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0·273, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE OF THE ALLIES ON PEKING.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the message received from Sir Claude MacDonald, an immediate advance cannot be made by the allied troops without waiting for the appointment of a commander-in-chief, and, failing this, whether Japan will not be commissioned to advance alone.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The latest advices from General Gaselee show that he contemplates an immediate advance, in which he hopes for the co-operation of the allied forces.

RECENT INTELLIGENCE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Has the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs any further news with regard to China?

*Mr. BRODRICK: We have no news as regards the Legations beyond the telegram from Sir Claude MacDonald which was published last night.

TREATMENT OF LI HUNG CHANG AT HONG KONG.

Mr. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the action of Sir Henry Blake in furnishing Li Hung Chang with a military guard of honour upon his departure recently from Hong Kong meets with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

*Mr. BRODRICK: We have not received any report on the subject, and I cannot, therefore, say what took place or give any opinion upon it.

EXPORTS OF MUNITIONS OF WAR TO CHINA.

Mr. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the names of the British firms whose action in supplying China with arms or ammunition has necessitated preventative legislation by the Government at this period of the session.

*Mr. BRODRICK: The introduction of the Bill referred to was necessitated by general grounds of policy; I have no material for entering upon the alleged action of individual firms.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—EXPENDITURE TO DATE.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total amount of money spent on the South African War up to the most recent date.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): It is impossible, as the hon. Member, no doubt, understands, to give any accurate or certain figure, but the War Office estimate the total expenditure up to date at about £42,000,000, exclusive of interest in respect of war debt.

BOER TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS.

Mr. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the War Office received from the Foreign Office some ten days ago information of the ill-fare of the British prisoners at Nooitgedacht, that some were dead and many sick of dysentery, that for eleven days they have been without meat, that their ordinary allowance was one pound of meat per week, that they were without many necessaries and in want of clothing and means to obtain it, and will he explain why this information was not forwarded, and will he yet forward it to, among others, the headquarters of the 13th Yeomanry in London, as promised on their enrolment, that corps being among the prisoners; whether any offer or attempt has been made to send in medical assistance from our own Army in the same manner in which our doctors and ambulances and medical comforts are given to the Boer prisoners and sick, and if he will state the date of any such offer or attempt, and whether the Boers have refused to allow such medical assistance to be given; and, if so, whether the British Army will continue to supply the same assistance to Boer prisoners and sick, while it is refused to be allowed to British prisoners and sick; and whether he has taken or will take any steps to ascertain the names of the dead and the sick.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

Mr. KIMBER: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what has been done with the quantity of letters addressed by post to members of the 13th Imperial Yeomanry Corps, Cape Town, for many weeks past; and have any steps been taken to get them forwarded to the members of that corps at Nooitgedacht, who have for many weeks been known to be there detained; and can he say whether all letters so addressed were duly delivered at Cape Town, and to whom; and with whom does the forwarding thence of such letters rest.

Mr. KIMBER: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office some ten days ago received information of the ill-fare of the British prisoners at Nooitgedacht, that some were dead, and many sick of dysentery, that for eleven days they have been without meat, that their ordinary allowance was one pound of meat per week, that they were absolutely without many necessaries, and in want of clothing and means to obtain it; and will he explain why this information was not forwarded to the War Office, and also, among others, to the headquarters of the 13th Yeomanry in London, for communication to relatives of the prisoners, as promised on their enrolment.

MR. KIMBER: To ask the Under Secretary of State for War what orders have been given, or steps taken, respecting the quantity of letters and other communications addressed to members of the 13th Imperial Yeomanry Corps, Cape Town, for many weeks past; and what steps have been taken to get them forwarded to the members of that corps at Nooitgedacht, where they have for many weeks been known to be detained.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): If my hon. friend will allow me, I will answer his four questions together. It is true that on the 20th of this month the Foreign Office received a telegram from Consul General Crowe about the condition of the prisoners at Nooitgedacht. That telegram was not published, nor was it communicated to the head-quarters of the regiments concerned. We have hitherto refrained from publishing telegrams from Captain Crowe referring to his efforts on behalf of British prisoners, because we have good reason to believe that such publication might embarrass him and reduce the prisoners' chance of receiving letters and comforts. We still hold that view, and I must appeal to my hon. friend, in the interests of the prisoners, to allow the Government to be the judge in this matter. I understand, however, on good authority that the supply of food for the prisoners is insufficient, that they had no meat or salt for eleven days, and that the ordinary allowance of meat was one pound per week; but that the general state of their health was good, and that only two deaths were reported, that about seventy men were in hospital, but no cases very serious. Perhaps I may again repeat that the Government has made, and is making, every attempt to ameliorate the condition of these prisoners, both in regard to their receiving letters and in other respects; that a telegram was despatched to Lord Roberts on the 24th instant, urging him to do all he could, and that a further telegram to the same effect has been sent to-day.

MR. KIMBER: The hon. Gentleman has overlooked the last part of the first question. Will he take any steps to ascertain the names of the dead and the sick?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I think the hon. Member has not listened to my reply. I said both in forwarding letters and in other respects. All these points are taken into consideration, and everything is being done that can be done; but to discuss the means that are taken would be to defeat the object of the hon. Member and of all of us.

RELIEF FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the comments made at a recent meeting of the Cork Board of Guardians upon an application for out-door relief by the wife and children of a wounded soldier in South Africa; and whether, with a view to remedy the hardship of taxing Irish ratepayers for the support of soldiers' widows, wives, and children, as well as for the cost of the war, he will suggest to the committees of the various charitable war funds the desirability of transmitting a reasonable proportion of these funds for distribution in Ireland.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The families of Irish soldiers have the same claim on all general patriotic funds as other soldiers, and there is no reason to suppose that the claim is not recognised. The question of giving State pensions to widows is, as I have more than once stated, now under consideration.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Will the question of granting gratuities also be considered?

*MR. WYNDHAM: The whole question is under consideration. The Leader of the House has already made a statement on the subject, and I cannot carry it any further.

GRATUITIES TO VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.

MR. BURT (Northumberland, Morpeth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether Militia officers whose regiments have been embodied and who have served in the South African War will, according to the Queen's Regulations, be entitled to receive the sum of £100 at the end of the war; and whether, if that is so, a similar gratuity will be given to Volunteer officers who have served in South Africa.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I answered this question in the affirmative on the 27th inst.

ARTILLERY SUBALTERNS.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, according to the establishment, in the cavalry the proportion of first lieutenants to second lieutenants is eight to six, and in the infantry eight to four at home, equal in the colonies, and nine to eight in India, while in the artillery it is now about 159 to 362 in the mounted artillery, and 98 to 348 in the garrison artillery; and if so, whether steps can be taken to remedy the wholesale supersession of artillery subalterns by those in other branches of the service; and whether the Secretary of State for War will consider, in view of the supersession which has taken place, the substitution of a fixed establishment of first lieutenants in the artillery, as was formerly the case as to increased pay, for the present system of three years service in the junior rank.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The figures are approximately correct. As I have previously informed the House the promotion of artillery second lieutenants is receiving consideration in the War Office. But the question is one of considerable difficulty. It is not possible to secure uniformity of promotion in the different branches of the service; but it is recognised that such inequality as exists at present ought to be remedied if possible.

HIGHLAND MILITIA UNIFORMS.

MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether all Militia battalions are now practically in the uniforms of their Line battalions, with the exception of the Militia battalions of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, the Seaforth Highlanders, and the Black Watch, and if it is now intended to give these battalions the uniforms of their Line battalions, as has been done with the Militia battalions of the Gordon Highlanders and the Cameron Highlanders.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No Militia except the 3rd Gordon and 3rd Cameron Highlanders have the full dress uniform of their Line battalions. All Militia have now practically the undress uniform of their Line battalions, and it is not proposed to make any change in the clothing of the Highland battalions referred to.

HONORARY MAJORS OF MILITIA REGIMENTS.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether honorary majors of embodied Militia regiments will be allowed to receive from the date of embodiment the increased pay given by Royal Warrant of 1899 to a captain having higher rank by brevet.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. Honorary rank is given to Militia captains after fifteen years service. Brevet rank is given to a captain for distinguished service in the field or service of an exceptional nature other than in the field. There is no similarity between the two cases.

OLD SOLDIERS IN BELFAST WORKHOUSE.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that at the present time there are over eighty old Irish soldiers in the Belfast workhouse; and whether steps will be taken to inquire into these cases with a view to provide any old soldier who may possess a certificate of good conduct with a pension.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Nothing is known of the presence of so many Irish old soldiers in the Belfast workhouse, but the matter shall be inquired into. It must, however, be understood that pensions are given either for long service, for war service on reaching the age of sixty-five, or to soldiers discharged in consequence of disablement incurred in the service. There may be men who have passed a portion of their life in the Army, but who fulfil none of these conditions.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: The information was supplied to me by a former Member of this House. Will the Government consider the desirability of providing all old soldiers who have seen active service with a pension?

*MR. WYNDHAM: That is done in all cases when a man reaches the age of sixty-five, but I cannot hold out any hope that the age limit will be reduced.

MILITIA COMMISSIONS — EXAMINATIONS.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will lay upon the Table a copy of the regulations issued for the competitive examination of candidates for commissions in the Militia in September next.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir.

TURKISH NAVAL ARMAMENTS AND BRITISH CONTRACTORS.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the representations which Her Majesty's Ambassador was directed to make to the Turkish Government in favour of British manufacturers who have made lower and better tenders for the armament of the Turkish warships than their German rivals have borne fruit, and whether such orders have been given to British firms.

*MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government have received no definite information as to who will receive the order for the re-armament of certain Turkish ships. They are aware that a British firm has made an advantageous tender, and representations were made to the Sultan by Her Majesty's Ambassador in the middle of June last urging that offers by British firms should receive fair consideration.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Have these representations been repeated in view of the fact that great political pressure is being brought to bear on behalf of the German firms?

[No answer was given.]

NORTHERN ASIA MINOR.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have formally abandoned large and rich portions of Northern Asia Minor and the Euphrates Valley as spheres of interest for railway construction and commercial development to other great Powers, or have Her Majesty's Government recognised any such spheres of interest, to the exclusion of British manufacture and commerce.

*MR. BRODRICK: The answer to both questions is in the negative.

AUSTRALIAN MINTS.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any decision has yet been arrived at in the matter of permitting the Australian branches of the Royal Mint to issue gold ingots for exportation.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: From inquiries made at Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth, as well as in London, there appears to be considerable doubt as to how far gold ingots issued from the branch mints in Australia with a mint mark would be in demand. In view of this uncertainty the present time is not considered favourable for introducing a change of such importance pending the establishment of Federal Government.

FACTORY INSPECTORS' RETURNS.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why, in the lately issued Factory Inspector's Report, the usual tables of persons employed in the various industries in different parts of the country, based on the Returns made under Section 34 of the Factory Act, 1895, have been omitted; and whether he will now supply this information by way of a Return, or otherwise.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): As I stated in answer to the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean on 15th February, it was necessary to omit the tables referred to if the Chief Inspector's Report was to be issued early, as desired by this House. A fresh Return of the numbers employed in factories will be compiled and published in due course, probably with the Chief Inspector's Report for the current year. I propose in future to publish the Return triennially. Its annual preparation involves so much labour as to interfere seriously even with the ordinary work of inspection.

DIOCESAN REGISTRARS' FEES.

MR. H. D. GREENE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he receives annually from the diocesan registrars statements of the fees received by them, and of the state of their offices, under the 7th and 8th Victoria, chap. 68, and whether such accounts are open to public inspection; and whether, in view of proposed legislation to give a vested interest to diocesan registrars by enabling them to make fresh charges in respect of fees, he will consent to give a Return of the statements received in respect of each diocese during the last three years.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir. Accounts under the statute referred to are received every year in the Home Office. I am not aware that anyone has ever asked to be allowed to inspect them, but I see no reason why inspection should not be allowed, if desired. I think there would be no objection to the Return suggested by my hon. friend, if he likes to move for it.

RECOVERY OF BODIES FROM THE THAMES.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that the watermen on the Thames receive a pecuniary reward for the recovery from the river of a dead body, but nothing for the rescue of a living body, he will consider the desirability, in the public interest, of making the work of rescue at least as remunerative as that of recovery.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I presume that what the hon. Member calls a reward is the fee of 5s. to which any person is entitled who first gives notice of the discovery of a drowned body to the parish authorities, under a statute of George III., of which the object was to secure the decent burial of castaways. I cannot credit the suggestion that for the sake of this sum any waterman would deliberately refrain from rescuing a person alive; and I do not propose to take any steps in the direction suggested, though I may mention that the police bring any attempt to save life from drowning (whether successful or not) to the notice of the Royal Humane Society, who make awards in cases where they consider that the circumstances justify recognition.

VIVISECTION RETURNS.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he explain why the Return of the Experiments on Living Animals during the year 1899 has been withheld until July, 1900, seeing that this delay precludes the possibility of a prosecution based on the facts recorded in that Return being instituted.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The Return has not been withheld, but was presented as soon as the necessary materials could be got together and digested. The date of the issue of the Return has no bearing on the decisions to which I may come on the matters recorded therein.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY—EMPLOYEES' DISPUTE.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Board of Trade furnished the Press with a copy of his letter of the 26th instant to Mr. Bell, of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, and Mr. Bell's reply thereto; and whether he has communicated since with the Great Eastern Railway Company, and whether the company have replied; and, if so, what is the tenour and the date of that reply, and has it been handed to the representatives of the men and to the press.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The answer to the first question is in the negative. In answer to the second question I have to say that I have had no formal communication with the railway company, and no communication has been made to the press.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Are the company prepared to receive the delegates elected by the men?

MR. RITCHIE: I am afraid I can add nothing to my answer.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—DUAL MEMBERSHIP OF STATE AND FEDERAL PARLIAMENTS.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether a member of the Legislature of one of the constituent States will be legally entitled to occupy a seat in the Australian Commonwealth Parliament at the same time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I am informed that the Legislature of South Australia has passed an Act providing that a member of either House of the South Australian Parliament shall, if elected a member of either House of the Commonwealth Parliament, vacate his seat in the South Australian Parliament on taking his seat in the Commonwealth Parliament, and that no member of the latter shall be qualified for nomination or election to either House of the Parliament of South Australia. None of the other colonies have, so far as I know, as yet adopted similar legislation, and therefore there is no impediment in the way of members of the Parliaments of these States becoming also members of the Federal Parliament, provided, of course, that they succeed in getting elected.

NEW EDUCATION CODE AND HIGHER GRADE SCHOOLS.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Rossendale Division of Lancashire, I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education can he state what number of the higher grade schools formerly conducted by school boards and the managers of Voluntary schools have been discontinued since the introduction of the New Code and the Minute providing for the establishment of higher elementary schools; how many applications have been made to the Board of Education for the conversion of higher grade schools into higher elementary schools under the said Minute, and how many applications have been made for permission to create new higher elementary schools under the said Minute; and what is now the total number of such higher elementary schools in England and Wales.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education are not aware of any such schools having been discontinued. About 190 applications have been made to be recognised under the Minute, most of which were accompanied by an intimation that the managers desired various modifications of the Minute, in order to enable them to comply with some of its terms. No higher elementary schools are yet in existence, nor can be until 1st October, the beginning of the school year.

SOUTH KENSINGTON SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he can state what loans were made by the Museum of Science and Art at South Kensington to centres in Wales during the year 1899.

SIR J. GORST: 815 objects to two museums, 218 objects to one exhibition, 330 objects to seven art schools and classes, 197 objects to three science schools and classes, making 1,560 objects altogether.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE—FEES.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that until the latter part of 1898 the public were permitted to inspect the indexes kept in the General Register Office at Somerset House for the entry of a particular birth, death, or marriage, and to peruse the entry on payment of 1s., and that such procedure was officially recognised under Regulation 9 of the printed arrangements with regard to searchers and certificates, signed by Sir Brydges P. Henniker, dated March, 1897, and publicly exhibited in the search room at Somerset House; whether this privilege has recently been curtailed, and the fee of 1s. is not now allowed to cover the perusal of the entry of birth, death, or marriage sought for; what is the reason for the present restriction; and whether he will direct that the facilities accorded to the public previous to 1898 will be restored.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): For a period prior to the latter part of 1898 the volumes of certified copies were as an act of grace allowed to be seen by applicants, but this concession was found in practice to be open to considerable abuse, and it became necessary to revert to the practice authorised by statute. The statutory fee of 1s. only covers the perusal of the index, and not of the volumes of certified copies.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: What was the abuse?

MR. HANBURY: The abuse was this, that insurance offices, chiefly, sent their agents to inspect those certified copies with the idea that the 1s. fee which they paid for inspecting the index covered such inspection. Such was not the case. The statute required that a fee of 2s. 6d. in addition should be paid for a certified copy.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Prior to 1898 it was allowed.

MR. HANBURY: It ought never to have been allowed at all; it was entirely contrary to statute.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: The practice may be disallowed, but it can hardly be called an abuse under the circumstances.

CUSTOMS BOARD EMPLOYEES' GRIEVANCES.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the conclusions to which he has come in reference to the grievances of different classes of workmen under the Customs Board into which he has personally inquired.

MR. HANBURY: I have already stated that improved conditions of service will be assured to the more deserving Customs watchers after a certain number of years service. Outdoor officers promoted to the grade of assistants of Customs who did practically the same work in their former post will have that fact recognised by being placed at a higher point in the scale of salary assigned to assistants of Customs. The cases of the remaining classes have not yet been finally dealt with, and indeed some have only within the last few days brought the facts before the notice of the Treasury.

DISTRICT MESSENGER COMPANY.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Post Office authorities decline to renew the licence for the District Messenger Company.

MR. HANBURY: The company are acting under two instruments. One is a licence under the Telegraph Acts which enables them to erect call-boxes in the houses of their subscribers, and the other is an authority under the Post Office Acts to deliver letters. It was intimated to the company in 1896, when the circumstances of the case were somewhat different, that the Postmaster General, as then advised, would not renew the licence on its expiration. The licence has in any case still three years to run; and, in view of the increased services rendered to the public by the company, the Postmaster General has recently been in communication with the company with the view of considering whether the call-box licence could not be renewed, coupled with some modification in the arrangement as to delivery of letters; and the whole subject is still engaging his attention.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Will the question of reducing the royalty also enter into the consideration?

MR. HANBURY: I do not think so. We have already reduced the royalty sufficiently.

EDINBURGH SORTING OFFICE.

MR. DEWAR (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can now say whether the scheme of revision for the sorting branch of the Edinburgh Post Office, which he stated was under the consideration of the Treasury in March, and on other occasions intimated would be decided very shortly, is likely to be sanctioned before Parliament rises.

MR. HANBURY: Some of the provisions of the scheme have been sanctioned, but certain questions relating to the superior appointments proposed are reserved for further consideration.

THE TRUCK ACTS IN IRELAND.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now state what has been the result of the consideration given to a recent judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland on the subject of the applicability of the Truck Acts to knitting, and to the bearing of the matter on the Factory Acts; and what is found to be the effect and extent of the decision.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: No, Sir. This difficult question is not yet settled. I am to have a conference with the Law Officers on it this afternoon.

IRISH CHURCH SURPLUS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the exact amount at present of the Irish Church Surplus Fund over the demands now chargeable upon it.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I can only refer the hon. Member to the Treasury Memorandum—House of Commons Paper No. 293, of the Session of 1899—in which this subject was fully discussed. Nothing has happened in the last year to modify materially the figures and conclusions contained in that Paper.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: The Government have been drawing on the fund for other purposes, and I want to know what the value of it is now.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That is a question which cannot be answered. The surplus, whatever it is, is adequate for the purposes for which it is required.

RIVER BLACKWATER SALMON FISHERIES.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the fact that the secretary of the Viceregal Commission on Salmon Fishing in Ireland, in reply to a communication on behalf of the Mallow Board of Conservators, stated that they would hear no evidence on behalf of the upper water proprietors as to the Queen's Gap in the weir on the River Blackwater at Lismore, on the ground that the question of its legality was *sub judice*; will he explain why, although the engineer to the Mallow Conservators also applied to give evidence about the Lismore weir, without receiving any reply, the Viceregal Commission permitted the agent to the owner of the Lismore weir, and his engineer, to give evidence before them, arguing that the weir was a legal structure; and will any steps be taken to have the views of both sides represented.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The examination of witnesses by the Inland Fisheries Commission is a matter for the consideration of the Commissioners themselves, acting under the powers conferred upon them by their warrant of appointment, and the Government cannot undertake to make representations to them in the direction suggested in the question. Any such representations should be made to the Commissioners direct or through their secretary.

SLIGO POST OFFICE.

MR. P. A. M'HUGH (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that for five or six years past the Post Office authorities have decided to erect a new post office in Sligo; has a site been secured, and where; and can he explain the delay in proceeding with the erection of the proposed new post office in Sligo.

MR. HANBURY: Advertisements for a site for a new post office at Sligo were issued in 1895, but none really suitable were offered. A site in Lower Knox Street and Bridgefoot Street, at a point known as Fish Corner, has now been purchased, and it is hoped that the building will be begun shortly. The delay has been due to the difficulty in finding a suitable site at a cost which the Department would be justified in paying.

CARRIGULLEN (LEITRIM) POSTAL DELIVERIES.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been directed to the inconvenience caused to the inhabitants of Carrigullen, South Leitrim, by the failure of the Post Office authorities to provide a mid-day delivery of letters; whether he is aware that the bulk of the Carrigullen letters arrive at Belturbet at 10 a.m., and lie in the post office there till six the next morning; and that a mail car running every day from Carrigullen to Killeshandra would expedite the delivery of these letters by about twenty hours; and what is the objection to such a mail car being provided.

Mr. HANBURY: No representation has reached the Postmaster General from the inhabitants of Carrigullen, but he will cause inquiry to be made whether any arrangement is practicable for affording a mid-day delivery of letters at that place.

SHANNON AND LIMERICK STEAM SERVICE.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will inquire if the alleged intention of the Grand Canal Company to discontinue their steamer service between Shannon Harbour and Limerick for the carriage of goods from Dublin and intermediate places to Limerick and *vice versa* is in any way due to an arrangement between that company and the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, or either of them, to further increase the monopoly of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company at Limerick and other places, in case the Amalgamation Bill now before Parliament becomes law; whether he recommends in the general interest that either by an arrangement between the intending railway monopolists, or because of the action of the Irish Board of Works, this competing Canal Company's trade with Limerick should be discontinued; and can he state what steps he proposes to take to protect the public interests in this matter.

Mr. HANBURY: I have made inquiries from the Board of Works, who state that they have no information as to the alleged intention of the Grand Canal Company to abandon the traffic on the river Shannon or as to any such arrangement as that referred to between the Grand Canal Company, the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, and the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, or either of them. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative. The Board have no knowledge of any danger to the public interest such as suggested.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: But will the right hon. Gentleman ascertain if the Board of Works are putting any difficulties in the way of trade being continued?

Mr. HANBURY: I answered that question yesterday.

IRISH RAILWAY AMALGAMATION BILLS.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Great Southern and Western, the Waterford and Limerick, and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Amalgamation Bill, now before Parliament, does not provide for the establishment of a tribunal, cheap and easy of access in Ireland (other than the Railway and Canal Commissioners), to which Irish traders and passengers can appeal in the event of the Bill becoming law; and will he take steps to provide such a tribunal which can deal with the questions of railway rates, fares and facilities, and other matters which may be in dispute between the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and the trading and travelling public in Ireland.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. If I correctly understand the second paragraph, the hon. Member desires to ascertain whether the Government propose to insert a clause in the Irish Railway Amalgamation Bills now before the House which shall provide for the establishment of a special tribunal to deal with rates and fares on the Great Southern and Western Railway of Ireland. In that case the answer to this paragraph is in the negative.

THE POSTMASTER GENERALSHIP.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether Lord Londonderry has intimated to Lord Salisbury his desire to resign his position of Postmaster General, in order that His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, who has been serving with the Army in South Africa, may, if he so desires, resume that office on his return to England.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have heard nothing of the rumour which appears to have reached the hon. Gentleman. It is a question which can hardly be debated upon the floor of the House.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Has it not been repeatedly stated in this House that all employees of public Departments——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Why should an exception be made in favour of Lord Londonderry?

CRUELTY TO WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Oil in Tobacco Bill, with an Amendment; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, with Amendments.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 319.]

ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have placed on the Notice Paper of the House, in language consecrated by the traditions of this House, some expression of the feeling with which we have received the dreadful news of the assassination of the King of Italy. I do not think the House will desire that I should endeavour to develop at length sentiments which seem to have received adequate expression in the very terms and framework of the resolution. Alas, Sir, we have seen too many of these dastardly crimes of recent years. I can remember in my own Parliamentary experience four other crimes besides the one with which this resolution deals—the assassination of the Emperor of Russia, the assassination of President Garfield, the assassination of the President of the French Republic, and the assassination of the Empress of Austria; and we all have in our minds another attempt, happily unsuccessful, to assassinate the heir to our own Throne. They show how widespread as well as how irrational is this most cruel and most foolish of all forms of public crime. Sir, if anything could add to the feeling of indignation with which the civilised world received the news of yesterday, it is the reflection that the late King of Italy was from his very earliest youth associated with the building up of the independence and liberties of his country. As far back probably as his recollection went, he was nearly concerned in those great events which have produced the Italy of to-day. He never hesitated to risk his life, either in war or in peace, where the interests of his country were concerned, and it does seem to render this great tragedy even more tragic that such a sovereign should be marked out for the assassin's dagger. Sir, the King of Italy was not only a great patriot, but he was a great friend of this country. He and his people have through good report and through ill report been the faithful friends of Britain and of the British Empire, and for that reason we received with even an additional pang of sorrow, even an additional movement of indignation, the sad news of his untimely death. I think, Sir, that I need say no more to commend this Resolution to the unanimous consent of the House. It will be sufficient if I read its terms to express the universal feeling with which I am sure the House will adopt it—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to convey to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learned the assassination of Her Majesty's ally, His Majesty the King of Italy and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present King, on the part of her faithful Commons, their abhorrence of the crime, and their sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy, and with the Government and people of that country."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I rise, Sir, for the purpose of seconding the motion which has just been made by the Leader of the House. Sir, it is unnecessary for me to add anything to the well-chosen words in which he commended that motion to the acceptance of the House; but I am desirous, at least, of marking the unanimity with which the House agrees in the double sentiment of horror and indignation at the crime that has been committed, and of sympathy with the Royal Family, the Government, and the people of Italy. The friendship, as the right hon. Gentleman has said, between the British people and the Italian people is traditional; it is strong, it is unabated, and we hope and believe it is ineradicable; and while, on the one hand, there is no nation in the world that has taken a more cordial and sustained interest than we have in the creation of the new Italy, of the Italy of unity and independence, at the head of which the gallant house of Savoy has placed itself, on the other hand, we know, as the right hon. Gentleman again has said, that we have no greater well-wishers than we have in Italy, and that the Queen has had no firmer friend or more staunch ally than the monarch whose untimely end we are deploring, and his illustrious father who went before him. For these reasons I claim that the gloom that has fallen on Italy finds an echo in all our hearts, and by this message, simple method as it may appear, we, at least, show that we share to the full the horror and grief with which this abominable outrage has been received throughout the civilised world.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, to convey to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learned the assassination of Her Majesty's ally, His Majesty the King of Italy, and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present King, on the part of her faithful Commons, their abhorrence of the crime, and their sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy, and with the Government and people of that country. —(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of Her Majesty's Household.

WAYS AND MEANS [30TH JULY].

Resolution reported:—

"1. That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one, sums not exceeding thirteen million pounds may be raised (in addition to any sums already authorised to be raised in the present session) by all or any of the following methods—

(a) by means of the issue of further war stock or war bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(b) by means of the issue of Treasury bills; or

(c) by means of the issue of Exchequer bonds;

and that the principal of and interest on any money so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

"2. That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury.

SUPPLEMENTAL WAR LOAN BILL.

"To provide for raising a Supplemental Loan for the service of the year ending the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 318.]

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*MR. MENDL (Plymouth): I beg to move that this Bill be recommitted in respect of Clauses 1 and 2. This is a measure which passed through the Committee stage without amendment of any kind, verbal, technical, or otherwise. It has always seemed to me manifestly impossible for a Bill to be drafted in such a perfect manner as to need no amendment of any kind, and, therefore, the forcing of Bills through Committee without alteration appears to me to be a violation of the spirit of the procedure of this House—a violation in respect of which the present Government has attained an unenviable notoriety. If this practice of avoiding the Report stage is to be encouraged, we may as well do away with the Committee stage also, for all the good effect the discussions have. This particular Bill is a very bad instance of this kind of treatment, because on reference to the debate on the Second Reading, which took place on the 21st June, * I find that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Committee of Council on Education promised he would consider any Amendment which was made in Committee, and that the House should have a further opportunity of considering Clause 2 in particular. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that if the House read the Bill a second time he would propose to refer it to the Standing Committee on Law, where the details of the technical clauses could be discussed, and the House, on Report, would have an opportunity of re-considering any matter of principle and giving its final decision. But where is that opportunity? I do not want to refer to the proceedings of the Grand Committee, of which I was not a member, but I understand that the right hon. Gentleman opposed every Amendment that was moved, with the result that the Bill again comes before us in exactly the form in which it was when it was read a second time. I know that on that occasion objection was taken by a large section of the Members to Clauses 1 and 2. The objection to Clause 1, as stated by my hon. friend the Member for the Morley Division of Yorkshire, was that it appeared to be a derogation from the statutory right to free education conferred by the Act of 1891, and made it a matter dependent upon the annual Code. I am told that the effect of passing the Bill in its present shape will be that 60,000 children will be excluded from the right to free education, and that there is a danger that the age up to which the fee grant will be paid will be lowered from fifteen to fourteen. Now, I prefer that if any such changes are to be made they shall be done by Act of Parliament, and not merely be dependent upon the annual Code. So far as Clause 2 is concerned, it confers on boards of guardians the right, which they may interpret as a duty, of giving fresh building grants to denominational schools without conferring on them more control over them than they have at present. I know the right hon. Gentleman will say that the object is to enable children who are under the poor law to attend public elementary schools. No doubt that is a very desirable object to achieve, but it ought to be done without placing on boards of guardians the duty of providing further accommodation, where a deficiency exists at the expense of the poor-law ratepayers. That duty ought to be left to the school board, for it might quite well be that the question whether or not a grant should be made to a particular school within the jurisdiction of the poor-law union might become a test question at the election of the board of guardians, and I can conceive nothing more undesirable than that. The effect of this clause is to introduce rate aid in an indirect form, and that is a matter with regard to which the House ought to be very careful. I beg to move.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I will second the motion, because of what occurred in the Grand Committee. There the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President of the Board of Education made a statement to the effect that if any amendment was made in Grand Committee there would be a Report stage to the Bill, and if there was a Report stage the Bill would be lost. I called attention to that statement at the time; it was reported in *The Times*, and I do not think the right hon. Gentleman will deny it. On former occasions violent attacks have been made by hon. Members opposite and the Leader of the House on the Grand Committee system, and particularly in regard to a Bill promoted by Irish Members to reform the municipal institutions of Ireland, which passed through Grand Committee without any Amendments. In the case of that Bill, however, an overwhelming majority of the Committee were opinion that no Amendments were necessary. In the case of this Bill, however, not only was the Committee almost exactly equally divided, but the right hon. Gentleman himself admitted that at least one Amendment was necessary, and he pledged himself that if it was not made there and then it should be made later on. It seems to me to be a mere fraud on the House of Commons to avoid the report stage by the steps which were taken on that occasion.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxiv., page 667.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words 'now read the third time,' and add the words 're-committed in respect of Clauses 1 and 2."–(*Mr. Mendl.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'now read the third time' stand part of the Question."

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): As a member of the Standing Committee, I wish to endorse what has fallen from the right hon. Baronet with regard to the conduct of the business in the Committee. I am in hearty sympathy with the motion made by the hon. Member for Plymouth. It is amply justified on the grounds which have been stated by both the mover and seconder. There is no doubt that these two clauses do raise highly controversial issues. There is no doubt, also, that several suggestions were made in the course of the debate in Committee which were, I may say, airily ignored to a great extent, and certainly were dealt with in a very superficial manner by the right hon. Gentleman. It is not desirable that the right hon. Gentleman should by a side wind effect a change in the law of the land with regard to the right of children to free education, which, in practice at any rate, would restrict that right, or as regards the rights of the community not to have the rates applied in this indirect way to the purposes of denominational education. Upon both of these points many suggestions were made in Committee; and eight or nine divisions were taken. Many of the discussions, indeed, were not pressed to a division. Although I was not present at the moment, I am given to understand that the Vice-President of the Committee of Council did distinctly indicate that there was not to be a Report stage, and that he resisted Amendments on that specific ground.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): No, no!

Sir Charles Dilke.

*MR. CHANNING: Yes; and by so doing he reduced the Committee to a position of absolute Parliamentary impotence which I for one resent, and would have resented had I been present on the occasion. This is not the first time such a policy has been pursued. The same course was adopted with regard to the Voluntary Schools Bill of 1897, in the face of repeated protests. I therefore say I think my hon. friend is amply justified in the course he is now adopting. I hold that this House is entitled to have the Bill re-committed, in order that hon. Members who are interested in it may be afforded an opportunity of discussing several points, and of improving the scope and character of the Bill by the introduction of reasonable Amendments which the tactics of the right hon. Gentleman upstairs prevented the insertion of. This is a typical instance of the way in which this sort of legislation is deliberately forced through Parliament. I hope my hon. friend will press his motion to a division, and thereby enable us to express our condemnation of the policy which has been adopted.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am not able to speak from personal observation of what occurred in the Grand Committee. But I must say it is a matter of notoriety that in that Committee every Amendment was refused on the ground that it was desired to avoid the Report stage.

SIR J. GORST: That is not the case. I must contradict the statement. No Amendment was refused on that ground, except one.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have never heard a Member of this House give a denial which was more in concurrence with the statement it was intended to refute. The right hon. Gentleman says that he only refused one Amendment on the ground that its acceptance would make the Report stage necessary. No doubt he did not give the same reason for refusing the other Amendments, but it is perfectly obvious that that was the real reason why all Amendments were rejected. There was the Amendment, for instance, of the hon. Member for Derby.

MR. DRAGE (Derby): That is the Amendment to which the right hon. Gentleman refers.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The right hon. Gentleman has admitted quite enough for my purposes. He has admitted that an Amendment was refused because its acceptance would have necessitated a Report stage. I remember that in the course of the debate on the motion for the Second Reading of the Bill my hon. friend the Member for the Morley Division withdrew an Amendment on the understanding that an opportunity would be afforded of discussing the matter at a later stage. The Bill consequently was allowed to pass without a division. But, in consequence of the tactics which were adopted in the Committee, it has been impossible to deal with the subject of my hon. friend's Amendment, and now the Bill cannot be brought into conformity with the general views of the House. It is scandalous that a non-controversial Bill of this sort should be rushed through in the way it has been done, and if this practice is continued, I venture to assert that the system of Grand Committees of the House will become ineffective for the purpose for which it was created.

SIR J. GORST: Perhaps the House will excuse me for rising so early in the debate, but I do so in order to put before it the real facts, which have been entirely misrepresented by the hon. Member. This Bill was introduced by the Government with the idea that it was entirely non-controversial, but, very much to their surprise, exception was taken to Clauses 1 and 2. The rest of the Bill was comparatively, I might almost say entirely, acceptable. It was practically unopposed. Now what happened in the Grand Committee? It is wholly incorrect to say that Amendments were refused to these two clauses in order that the Report stage might be avoided. A discussion took place upon the clauses, and it was carried on without any pressure being put upon the Committee either by myself or by any other member of the Committee. Amendments were brought forward and the debate lasted a considerable time, and the Amendments were rejected by very large majorities. We then passed to the unopposed clauses, and it was upon one of these that what is known as a drafting Amendment was proposed. As to that I was extremely frank with the Committee. I said plainly that the Amendment ought to be introduced, and I undertook that it should be introduced in another place. The matter was discussed, and by a bare majority the Committee resolved not to put in this technical Amendment at that stage. I certainly did tell it that if the Amendment were inserted there would have to be a Report stage, and that then possibly the Bill might not be passed this session. I also pointed out that this Bill was a very important one from an educational point of view, and I added that it would be a great misfortune if it were to be sacrificed simply with the idea of introducing a drafting Amendment. But I repeat that Clauses 1 and 2 were practically under discussion a whole day. No doubt there is a principle involved in them, but the House has an opportunity now of discussing that question of principle, and I am quite prepared to discuss it with them again. What is the object of Clause 1? Grants to elementary schools are now given for average attendance. This is calculated according to the Code for Parliamentary grant, and also for fee grant. The actual experience of the Department has convinced everybody that it is inconvenient to have the Parliamentary grant calculated in two different ways. I will give the Committee an illustration of how the necessity for this amending clause has arisen. Rural schools applied to Parliament to be allowed to calculate average attendance upon the best 400 openings in the year—200 in the morning and 200 in the evening. A snowstorm, or thunderstorm, or some other accidental cause, might prevent a considerable proportion of the children attending, and that would seriously affect the managers by reducing their grant. The only alternative was to send home the few children who did put in an appearance. Hence the application that they should be allowed to open the school without necessarily counting it as a school day. The Department found that by the Act of 1891 they were estopped from granting the wish of the rural schools, and they put Clause 1 into this Bill to carry it out. The hon. Member says that the payment of the fee grant according to the Code in existence in 1891 will deprive a number of children of the statutory right of free education. It will do nothing of the kind. There has been no change whatever made in the Code which will deprive any child of any right, and I do not think it likely any Minister for Education will ever attempt such a thing. Clause 2 is to enable boards of guardians to make arrangements for children under their control, instead of being taught separately in workhouse schools, to attend the ordinary elementary schools of the country, and to pay for them such an amount as is reasonable, having regard to the amount of instruction given. Some hon. Member has discovered that this provision will enable Voluntary schools to be assisted out of the rates, but that can only be if the guardians pervert the powers given them under the clause to purposes to which they are not intended to apply. Having regard, therefore, to the great benefits which this provision will undoubtedly bestow on poor-law children, I hope the clause to which objection has been discovered in such an ingenious manner will be accepted, and that the House will consent to give this Bill a Third Reading, because it is a measure which, on the whole, will be a very great advantage to the education of the country.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I do not propose to enter into the controversy as to what happened in Committee. One thing seems to be perfectly clear, and that is that the right hon. Gentleman did use the argument about the Report stage. I have been looking at the official report of the proceedings in Committee, and I find that the right hon. Gentleman used the argument just before the very first division in which the position of the Government was imperilled. The Ayes in that division were 9 and the Noes 10. My hon. friend the Member for West Nottingham voted with the Government in that division in response to an appeal from the right hon. Gentleman. Then the right hon. Gentleman says that he only used his argument about the Report stage on one Amendment; but he used it on the very first opportunity in which it was useful to him, and he got the Bill through by that device. Unfortunately this is not the only Education Bill that has been passed through this House in a similar manner. We have another Bill, regarding which it was admitted that it could be strengthened on several points; but it was carried through with all its imperfections on its head, simply because the First Lord of the Treasury wanted to save a few days of Parliamentary time, and I think he is primarily responsible for the position in which the Vice-President now finds himself. There are several clauses in this Bill which are exceedingly useful, and that is why my hon. friend did not move the rejection of the Bill, but confined his opposition to the two first clauses. On the whole it is an admirable Bill, but the two first clauses introduce principles of a very pernicious character. I think the House ought to protest against the growing practice of withdrawing Bills from its cognisance, because that is what it really means. I do not really remember a Parliament in which the power of the Cabinet has grown so enormously as in the present Parliament. We have Bills drafted by Committees of the Cabinet, and then the House of Commons is asked to reject or to accept them in order to save time, and little or no opportunity is given for their consideration. The Party system is brought into requisition, and all opposition is squashed. I think the House of Commons, in the interests of its own dignity and usefulness, ought to put an end to this system. With regard to the merits of my hon. friend's Amendment, I shall only say that I think the Vice-President has rather minimised the effect of the second clause. Will the House kindly consider for a moment what is proposed to be done. A principle is to be introduced in connection with the elementary education of this country which has never been introduced before. It is proposed that boards of guardians shall, if necessary, contribute the bulk of the expense of building and maintaining schools which may belong to one denomination, and may be under the management of the minister of that denomination, without any provision whatever for any control proportionate to the amount of the rate aid. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman what would be the position, supposing the guardians, having contributed the bulk of the money towards building a school, found that afterwards, for some reason or other, the children had to be withdrawn from it, because, perhaps, the position of the workhouse had to be altered? That happens frequently, and the result will be that, as far as the guardians are concerned, that school will be of no further use to them although money out of the rates was invested in it. I would ask what provision there is in this Bill to enable boards of guardians to withdraw their money in such a case. The guardians would have no vestige of interest in the property, and the result would be that the whole of their money would be handed over to the funds of one religious denomination. I think we have a right to protest against that. The right hon. Gentleman has gone further than even the advocates of the Voluntary schools. The hon. Member for Stroud and the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich have admitted that if rate aid were given to Voluntary schools there would then be a case for local control; but in this Bill the right hon. Gentleman proposes to give rate aid without a vestige of local control. I think we ought to protest against the introduction of that principle; it is an unfair one, and therefore I am glad that my hon. friend has given us an opportunity of protesting against it. The right hon. Gentleman said that this matter had already been threshed out, but this is the first opportunity the House has had of pronouncing on this particular point as to whether we are going to give local aid to these schools without local control.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall): The rule by which when a Bill has passed through Committee without alteration it need not be considered on the Report stage is one which seems to me to act very well if the Committee to which a Bill is referred is a Committee of the whole House, but when that rule is extended to the Standing Committees on Law and Trade it works this injustice—it prevents over 600 Members of this House from being in a position to move any Amendment to such a Bill. I therefore sincerely hope that next session the Standing Order may be modified so far as to remove that injustice. I go further and say that if we were more remote from the end of the session, although I heartily approve of the Bill, yet, as I feel that a hardship is being committed, I would vote with the hon. Member opposite in favour of committing this Bill, as a protest against the injustice of the Standing Order of the House; but, having regard to what seems to me to be the great merit of the Bill—namely, the enormous advantage of taking away from children that brand with which they are now labelled when educated in workhouse schools, and for enabling them to receive education equally with other children in public elementary schools—I feel that the game is not worth the candle, and as we are told that if any step is taken at this period of the session to delay the progress of the Bill it may have to be thrown over, I do not feel able to fight against the Standing Order on this occasion.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): Like the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, I think the Bill contains more useful than mischievous provisions, and, personally, I should be very sorry if those useful provisions were not carried, because I think they will effect a very desirable amendment in the law. But the motion of my hon. friend does not in the least involve that result. All he asks is that the Bill should be re-committed in respect to the first and second clauses. I myself attended the meetings of the Standing Committee, and I must say I entirely concur with the motion, and I think it is one which the House ought to accept. A very important principle in connection with our procedure is involved. On the Second Reading the discussion ranged very largely over details, and what was certainly understood then was that the right hon. Gentleman would take steps to satisfy the objections that had been raised. When the Bill came before the Committee, what happened? Amendments were moved with the effect of trying to obtain from the right hon. Gentleman the fulfilment of that assurance, but those Amendments were steadily voted down by the representatives of the Government, with the effect of avoiding the necessity for a Report stage. I am not altogether prepared to agree with the hon. Member who has just sat down, because I think that even when a Bill has passed through Committee of the whole House, such a course as was taken in connection with this Bill is neither justifiable nor necessary. Let me give one illustration. On the second clause an Amendment was moved the object of which was to secure some kind of representation, when the board of guardians made a contribution, in the management of the schools. This Amendment was defeated by 10 to 9. The result is that the vote of a single

Member of this House out of 670 defeated the Amendment, and even that hon. Member was in favour of the principle of the Amendment.

SIR J. GORST: No; you are mistaken there.

MR. ASQUITH: It does not matter. The illustration stands quite as good, for the fact remains that, as regards an important Amendment, the vote of a single Member prevented the alteration of the Bill in Committee and precluded any part of the Bill being discussed when it came here at a subsequent stage. It is really upon that point, raising as it does a most important question of Parliamentary procedure, that I hope the hon. Gentleman will press his Amendment to a division.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) On the day when the Committee discussed the Amendment on Clause 2, the First Lord of the Treasury made his statement as to the progress of business for the rest of the session, and that statement involved a rather ominous reference to the Elementary Education Bill. Following that, the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President told the Committee, with great and refreshing frankness, that if that Amendment was carried it would mean probably the loss of the Bill. Now, that particular Amendment was of very slight importance in itself. It was to insert a few words that ought to have been inserted by the draughtsman, to extend to the bye-laws under the Education Act the same improvement as to the increase of age as the Bill was about to make in regard to the Act itself, and it was promised that the alteration should be made during Committee stage in another place. He supported the motion now before the House to recommit the Bill as regarded Clauses 1 and 2. Both at the Second Reading of the Bill and in the Standing Committee he took the view that Clauses 1 and 2 required amendment and that safeguards should be provided, and he could not accept the statement the right hon. Gentleman had given that afternoon in regard to Clause 2. If Clause 1 passed it would be possible for a foolish President of the Board of Education to place on the Table for thirty days a Minute reducing the maximum age in respect to elementary education in the schools; and a lax House and a lethargic public opinion outside might allow it to pass, though that was a conjunction of circumstances not likely to occur. But in regard to Clause 2, for the first time in the history of the country it would be possible to apply money levied upon the ratepayers to an elementary school not the property of the ratepayers and not under their management. It came to this, as he had ventured to say in the Standing Committee, that it was their old friend the thin edge of the wedge, of rate aid in favour of Voluntary schools. It would have been proper if in the Standing Committee the Amendment had been carried as it was discussed. He voted for it then, and he could not do other than vote that afternoon that the Bill be recommitted in respect of that clause. The remainder of the Bill was of great value, but he felt that they ought to have their consciences clear on the application, without safeguards, of the ratepayers' funds to schools not the property of the public.

*MR. TALBOT (Oxford University) did not think that the issue raised by the hon. Gentleman was very important. A more important point had been raised by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife. The management of Voluntary schools seemed to haunt the mind of the hon. Gentleman the Member for West Nottingham, and he appeared to wish to put the ratepayers to the necessity of providing other schools for the education of pauper children. A larger portion of the wedge had already been inserted, because they had allowed boards of guardians to send children to industrial schools and other schools which were conducted on strictly denominational lines, and on the management of which the ratepayers had no representation. They should trust to the common sense of the managers of the Voluntary schools. If there was suspicion of proselytising, it was quite right to introduce safeguards; but if the management of those schools as it really existed was looked at, the hon. Gentleman need not be afraid of the danger which he professed to express. His experience was, that this danger of religious teaching was one of the bugbears which existed in the House of Commons, but which disappeared altogether in the air outside. He passed from that to the rather more important matter referred to—the procedure on Bills referred to Standing Committees. He did not believe in the practice of hustling Bills through towards the end of the session. It was not a very dignified or decorous procedure. But it must be admitted, on the other hand, that sometimes the opponents of a Bill had almost forced the practice—undignified though it was—upon the Members of the Government who were not dealing with measures of first rate importance, but were very anxious, from the Departmental point of view, to get their Bills through at the end of the session. For what had happened? When Bills had been discussed at moderate length both in the House and upstairs, and Amendments had been moved by the opponents of the Bill, all these matters were raised again on the Report stage. The result was a double dose of opposition. Now a double dose of opposition might be all right on matters of cardinal importance, and if there was time, but when they came to a Bill of only Departmental importance—a Bill like this that was going to do a great deal of good to the elementary education of some of the most neglected children in the country, and therefore the most deserving of our attention—and the choice was presented of letting the Bill get through Parliament with tolerable facility at the end of the session, or to run the guantlet of a double dose of opposition, and therefore the chance of being lost—he thought his right hon. friend would have been almost more than human not to resist the Report stage if he could help it. One word more. The Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Derby, referred to by the hon. Gentleman, was one of importance, and with that he cordially sympathised. It was an Amendment which raised large and most important questions. But it was better to wait some other chance of carrying it than imperil the Bill which they all desired. The subject of the Amendment should be taken up by the Education Board, and not left in the hands of a private Member. He trusted, as he had said in the Standing Committee, that it would now be considered a matter of honourable obligation by both political parties, to rescue little children who were attending school from the burden of hard work outside school, to which too many of them were now subject.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he did not rise for the purpose of prolonging the debate, but he wished to emphasise the remarks of the hon. Member for Walsall. The procedure adopted had deprived the House of an opportunity of moving any Amendments at any stage of the Bill. What had taken place on this, and on one or two previous occasions, was never contemplated and never discussed before the House when the Standing Committees were appointed. The House was always very careful how it parted with its authority, and what had happened in Grand Committee was that Amendments had been made, and consequently there had been no Report stage. There were circumstances, no doubt, which would justify the Government and a weary House in assenting to anything which would get a Bill out of the way, and bring the session to a close, but they should apply never to private Members' Bills, and only occasionally to Government measures; but the House having seen fit to extend this powerful weapon to private Members' Bills it should at all events reserve to itself the power of supervising the decisions of the Standing Committees. In this instance it was by one vote that the House of Commons had been deprived of the opportunity of fully discussing and considering the Bill. Standing Committees were very good so far as they went, but he was satisfied that their operation could not be much longer continued without drastic changes, both in reference to quorum divisions and the subsequent submitting of the decisions to the House.

Mr. DRAGE said reference had been made more than once to his Amendment, but the Amendment upon which the discussion had arisen he was not responsible for. He was, however, pleased the discussion had been raised, because it had afforded them the opportunity of obtaining from the Government on the floor of the House a repetition of the pledge that the abuses in regard to wage-earning children would be the subject of an inquiry by an Inter-departmental Committe, and that legislation on the matter would be introduced at the commencement of next session.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): The right hon. Gentleman gave us an assurance that these words should be introduced in another place. Will he now say whether he intends that the Amendment shall be introduced in the House of Lords?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 90. (Division List No. 252.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorrell
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, SirJohnCharlesReady
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd
Cornwallis, FiennesStanleyW.
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Drage, Geoffrey
Dyke, Rt. Hn. SirWilliam Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. SirJ (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Fox, Dr. Francis Joseph
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (Cy of Lond.
Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. RobertWm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. S. (Staffs.)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jessel, CaptainHerbertMerton
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, SirEDurning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
Llewelyn, SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'e
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macaleese, Daniel
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Henry Hananel
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. SirHerbertE.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Middlemore, John T.
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, HerbertPike (Darlingt'n
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hn. SirMatthewW.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, W. (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, JamesParker (Lanarks.
Stanley, HonArthur (Ormskirk
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. JG (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. CE (Taunt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hon. JohnLloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, RtHonHerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Baker, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire.)
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
M'Arthur, Willaim (Cornwall
M'Ewan, William
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Roberts, J. Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Strachey, Edward
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tennant, Harold John
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson, (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Hud'rsf'ld
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. Causton.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH: I have now to repeat my question to the right hon. Gentleman as to whether he intends to fulfil the pledge he gave to the Committee as to the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Derby. He, I understand, gave a pledge that the words would be inserted when the Bill goes to another place.

SIR J. GORST: I do not think the hon. and learned Gentleman is justified in asking a question of that kind with the implication that I am not going to fulfil the pledge which I have given. [MR. GRIFFITH: Oh, no.] The manner and tone in which the hon. Member asked the question certainly bore that construction. I can only say that I am generally in the habit of fulfilling such pledges as I give, and in regard to this pledge it is the intention of my noble friend the Lord President to introduce an Amendment in another place.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I think this Bill ought not to be allowed to pass without one final word being said as to the way the House of Commons has been treated throughout in regard to those Bills relating to elementary education. We all remember that a previous Bill dealing with an important subject was introduced, and this House was absolutely denied the right of discussing the Bill on its Report stage. Now we have another Elementary Education Bill, and we have heard the way in which it has been treated upstairs. Hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House have admitted that the practice that has arisen is constitutionally a most dangerous one. I am glad to see the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House in his place. I wish he could have heard from beginning to end—and that is my chief reason for rising—the discussion that took place on the motion to re-commit the Bill. I wish he could have heard the expressions of opinion from those on both sides of the House as to the manner in which the House of Commons is being treated in regard to this Bill. Here are 600 Members who have absolutely no right whatever to discuss the details of the Bill and move necessary Amendments to it. I may venture to remind the right hon. Gentleman that the Government had plenty of time to carry this Bill through the House in a proper way. We have had our holidays extended, and there never has been in this century such a lazy Parliament as the one now drawing to its close. The right hon. Gentlemen who sit on the Treasury Bench have had comparatively little opposition, and I think it is extremely hard that in the case of a Bill of this kind, in which a large number of people are interested, their representatives should not have the right to move the necessary Amendments in this House. When Amendments are moved they are rejected upon the ground that this House must be prevented at all cost from expressing its opinion on the Bill in detail. This is a most dangerous practice, and therefore at the eleventh hour I venture to say one word of protest against it. We admit that there is much in the Bill that is valuable and useful, but we also assert that there are the potentialities of mischief in the Bill, which ought to be guarded against. We have had no opportunity whatever of guarding against these possibilities of mischief, and I can only deplore the course the Government have seen fit to pursue in this matter.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

COMPANIES BILL.

THIRD READING.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said he did not think they ought to pass the Third Reading of the Bill without a few remarks to show what the position of the law would be, unless it was altered in some respects in another place. The Bill came on so suddenly after it had passed through the Grand Committee that there had not been time to propose new clauses. Copies of the Bill, printed as amended, were not in their hands until Monday morning, and the Bill came on in the House on Tuesday. The Bill, no doubt, was exceedingly well intended, and he hoped it would do more good than he was afraid would be the case; but he hoped the Government in another place would take some steps to correct the difficulties, obscurities, and mistakes which were still to be found in it. The object of the Bill was to safeguard intending investors; but, while shareholders were looked after almost in a grandmotherly way, those who took debentures were supposed to be capable of taking care of themselves, and were left in rather an awkward position. There were certain requirements provided for in the Bill which were thought to be necessary for the protection of the public. If the public were not invited to subscribe before registration, a company might easily obtain a certificate of registration, after which subscriptions might be invited, and the intended safeguards could thus be avoided. Then there was a difficulty in connection with allotment. Supposing a company's shares had all been subscribed on the first allotment, which was not infrequently the case, and that within the year it was considered necessary by the directors to raise money by way of debentures, for which they issued a prospectus, at the same time desiring to elect a very large shareholder to the directorate, and a vacancy of the board occurred, or, at all events, it was thought advisable to elect that large shareholder, it was impossible under the provisions of this Bill to do so until the expiry of the year. No shareholder could be appointed a director of the company within the year unless he was named in the articles of association, or unless he lodged with the registrar a contract in writing undertaking to take from the company and pay for a certain number of shares, although the company might not be able to give the shares. That appeared to be a great absurdity. A shareholder who might hold three-fourths of the shares could not be appointed a director unless he complied with certain requirements which were really impracticable. He hoped that would be altered in the Upper House. The provisions with regard to the minimum subscription required amendment, because they could be easily evaded. The requirements in regard to the prospectus were designed to prevent fraud in the promotion of a new company, but they put unnecessary difficulties in the way of a company of long standing in the legitimate object of raising further capital by debentures. It would be obliged to state in the prospectus a number of old matters and transactions long forgotten, which investors would not care to know. They would prefer to see the last two or three balance sheets. When a director concurred in omitting to comply with some of the intricate requirements of this Bill in regard to the issue of the prospectus, was sued and had to pay damages, he could not make his co-directors contribute. It was only when an untrue statement had been made and a great wrong had resulted that he could make them contribute. What would happen to him if the prospectus both contained an untrue statement and did not meet with the requirements of the Act? It would take one with more ability than he had for solving puzzles, to determine. Another hardship was that if there was fraud in the formation of a company, or at any time of its existence, and the company came into liquidation—no matter whether the fraud had been committed by a director, manager, clerk, or even the office-boy—every person who during that time had been a director or officer of the company might be called upon, at his own expense, to be exposed to the ordeal and torture of an examination in public. These were a few of the points which he had picked out of the Bill which still required consideration, and he hoped that the House of Lords would assent to the Amendments in the direction he had indicated. As Andrew Fairservice would have said, this Bill was "ower bad for blessing, but too guid for cursing."

*MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): The right hon. Gentleman has been congratulated at having reached the end of his labours; but I do not think that these congratulations, when they had reference to the character or the result of this measure, were entirely unmingled with a feeling of regret. I confess that I regard this Bill with some measure of disappointment. I feel that the right hon. Gentleman has missed a very great opportunity for amending defects in company law; and that after this measure has been passed there will still be a strong sense throughout the country that defects exist which might have been remedied. The right hon. Gentleman has been subjected to very great difficulties. In the first place, he had to deal with a stale measure. It was drafted some years ago, and was adapted to a state of things in regard to company promotion which the lapse of time had rendered obsolete. The methods of company promoting had considerably altered during the last few years, and since this scheme was framed. The light which was thrown upon the subject by the revelations in connection with the Hooley and other companies was absent, and therefore the result was a measure ill adapted for Amendments which were necessary to bring it into harmony with the modern conditions under which companies are launched. Again, the right]hon. Gentleman seemed to suffer almost a paralysis owing to his anxiety not to overweight the Bill. Any Amendments proposed with the view of increasing its efficiency he appeared to regard with undue apprehension. Whether he feared the influence of some of his supporters or his colleagues, or whether he was afraid of criticism in another place, he lent a very much more ready ear to suggestions that would render the Bill less operative than to suggestions which would have made it a more effective instrument for the prevention of fraud. Then the right hon. Gentleman was subjected to undue pressure, having regard to the very limited time available for the discussion of a measure of the very first importance. When one considers the very trifling record of the session, the reason why this important measure is left to the very last day is difficult to imagine. It is almost impossible to give one's mind to criticising its complicated provisions in the time. The result of the procedure which has been adopted is that we have a Bill which none of us regard as an unmixed good. It does very little to remove the difficulties attendant on honest company enterprise, and very little to suppress fraud in company promotion. It is impossible to suppose that the company reformer will be satisfied with this measure, and after it has passed through Parliament we shall sooner or later have to take up the duty of forging a more perfect instrument to check the frauds of company promoting. There are defects which cripple this scheme which must be remedied before any effectual measure of company reform is passed. The Bill does not in any way deal with gambling companies which are formed without any prospectus. The whole framework of the measure is adapted to a state of things which assumes that every company is launched with a prospectus. The very elaborate requirements with which the directors are compelled to comply in issuing the prospectus are unattended by any penalties. They must furnish information on many topics, but if they do not do so there is no penalty in the Bill, and it therefore becomes necessary to fall back on the antiquated, cumbrous, and almost obsolete indictment for misdemeanour at common law. Now in no modern statute in my experience are the requirements of statutes left to be enforced by means of an indictment for misdemeanour at common law. In all modern statutes penalties are created, and in nearly every case you have the process of summary conviction which may be put at the disposal of persons enforcing the law. In this measure there is no such provision, and I cannot help thinking that this Bill has been drawn by somebody entirely unfamiliar with the practice of inserting such a provision in an Act of Parliament. There is no provision for giving the shareholders information with respect to the money expended by the vendor or the promoter in the promotion of a company. The vendor's account and the promotion account are not among the documents to be supplied to the shareholders. The Bill is framed upon the assumption that the cost of the promotion is to be borne by the company, but the cost of the promotion in nearly all cases is borne by those persons who bring it into existence, so that it is most essential that those accounts should be supplied in order that dishonesty in promoting companies should be stopped. Then as to the one man company. A more indefensible condition of things than that which is known as the one man company cannot be imagined; but after this Bill has become law, it will be possible for a man to bring out a company, to take all the shares and carry on his business under the name of a company, and although he owns all the property and takes all the profit of the business he leaves all the risk to the company and is under no liability. That is certainly a matter that should be remedied, but as this measure stands that state of things will continue to exist, because, as a man does not publish a prospectus to himself, and there is no record of shares allotted, or debentures placed, there is nothing to enable any person to inquire into the extraordinary scheme of which that company is the result. There is also no attempt to limit the practice of qualifying the liability of directors and other officers of the company by the insertion of provisions in the company's Articles. I do not wish to say anything with regard to this measure which may cause the right hon. Gentleman any disappointment. So far as it goes it is an honest and useful effort on the part of the Government in the path of company reform, but I greatly regret that it has not been made more complete. Important matters are left for future legislation, and if we fail to take advantage of the stream now when it is at the flood we may have to wait a long time for another opportunity. These evils will continue to exist in our industrial system; scandals will from time to time arise, and the present Bill may be pointed to as representing the sum of attainable effort in our generation.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) said that he saw in this Bill no difficulties put in the way of unscrupulous men to prevent them getting over or evading the provisions made for the protection of the public. One result of the measure would be that the public would be put to greater expense than they had had hitherto to bear in the formation of companies. There was one point which he wished specially to point out. There was no tribunal to deal with complaints. The Board of Trade had taken no power under which they could investigate charges of fraud. The investigation would take place when the company was in liquidation, and when all the assets had been lost. Investors would like the investigation to come at some previous period, but there was no provision whatever for that in the Bill. The Bill provided with respect to the question of qualification that the prospectus should state the amount. There would be no difficulty in stating the amount at such a small figure that the good which the provision in the Bill was intended to secure would be done away with. Again, the provision in the Bill on the question of allotment lent itself to evasion, inasmuch as promoters could easily put in nominees, men of straw, to subscribe, and under the names of A, B, C, and D, with £1,000, £2,000, £3,000 and £4,000 respectively, they would be able to ensure the flotation of the company. He mentioned these points to illustrate what he felt—namely, that this Bill was not more far-reaching than the present law, and did not really deal with men who were capable of evading the law. Some day or other the Bill would have to be amended, inasmuch as it would be found that the expense honest promoters would have to undergo would be far more than they had to pay under the present law. He was afraid that the Bill would not have the very much desired effect. He was sure the country had viewed with consternation the acts which had lately been seen of unscrupulous men who floated companies without any tangible assets. Even if this Act had been in force it would not have been possible to prevent the fleecing of the public in the way those men had done. Those acts were within the knowledge of everyone in the House. He regretted that this Bill had not had more time devoted to it. The importance of it had not been fully gauged by those interested in it.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that company promoters generally looked pretty well after themselves. So far as the complaint of the hon. Member for the Romford Division was concerned, he did not share it. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of

Trade had, he had no doubt, the most honest and excellent intentions in bringing forward this Bill, but he did not carry out his excellent intentions in the Bill. It seemed to him, with all respect to the right hon. Gentleman, that he really did not know the tricks of promoters sufficiently to be able to provide against them in the Bill. The Bill admittedly was one of the worst ever passed by a legislative assembly. He had been concerned in passing many Bills, good, bad, and indifferent, but he did not know any Bill so bad—not in its principles, but in the mode of giving effect to those principles—as the Bill they were going to read the third time that evening. The Bill was badly drawn up. It went to a Committee on which they had a number of wholly excellent and intelligent lawyers, and a good many perfectly respectable directors. They knew nothing of the subject with which they had to deal. The honest directors put up their hands to heaven and asked, "Can such things be?" Then the Bill came down to the House. They could not discuss a Bill of this importance and magnitude in the last week of the session. In order to make the Bill ship-shape and to make it hold water it ought to have been discussed much longer. What happened on the previous night? The President of the Board of Trade and the Attorney General were in possession of what he might call a mechanical majority. They had about thirty gentlemen sitting behind them who voted against every Amendment which the Government did not accept. Those gentlemen knew absolutely nothing of the matter. The Government Whips ought not to interfere in connection with such a Bill as this. It was not a party question, but in this case they knew perfectly well that the whip pointed to the lobby, and Amendments proposed by his hon. and learned friend the Member for South Leeds and others were voted down. At the same time the thirty Members on the other side of the House were kept sweet by the right hon. Gentleman making concessions to them. Some Gentleman got up and moved a little Amendment on the other side of the House, and the right hon. Gentleman said, "Agreed, agreed," before they knew where they were, and thereupon the Amendment was carried, whereas when Amendments were moved from the Opposition side of the House there was no cry of "Agreed." It seemed to him that the right hon. Gentleman considered it a point of honour to oppose them. It was to be a real Conservative Bill, and, naturally from the standpoint of Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, it was a very bad Bill. [The hon. Member for the Peckham Division of Camberwell interjected a remark which was inaudible in the Gallery.] The hon. Gentleman was an angel among those who were not angels. His Amendments were excellent ones, but they were too much in the line of those proposed on the Opposition side to find favour with the right hon. Gentleman. That morning at half-past one, when the House adjourned, he was prepared to sit until three o'clock if they could amend the Bill in any way. The case was perfectly hopeless. The House was getting more and more sleepy, and there were cries of "Divide, divide," from the faithful thirty. Under those circumstances he went off to bed and left the right hon. Gentleman to do what he pleased. The right hon. Gentleman was very courteous, but he always distrusted a Minister who was very courteous. He knew perfectly well what it meant. He knew that the courtesy was a sort of *quid pro quo* for getting something else. His hon. friend had pointed out many of the shortcomings of the Bill, and it seemed to him that when a clause was passed shutting up some loophole for swindling it was opened again, and that further opportunities for swindling were given that did not at present exist. A clause in the Bill stated that a company might underwrite, and on the prospectus a statement of what it paid for the underwriting was to be set forth. But right hon. Gentlemen refused to allow any money which might be paid by the promoters in excess of 1 per cent. or 2 per cent. paid by the company to appear on the prospectus. What was the consequence? The investor, looking at a prospectus, would say, "This is a very good company, for it has been underwritten at 2 per cent."; but for all they knew the underwriting might have been 10 per cent., because the right hon. Gentleman would not agree that whatever was given for underwriting, whether by the promoters or the company, should appear on the prospectus. Then as to abridged prospectuses, surely it was desirable that in an abridged prospectus the main substantial facts should be stated. An Amendment was moved to that effect, but the right hon. gentleman refused to accept it, and he said that if abridged prospectuses were not allowed newspapers alone would profit. As a matter of fact, newspapers would gain by abridged prospectuses, because if the full prospectus had to be published not many would be advertised, and then only for brief periods, and when a particular company would rather avoid full publicity the abridged prospectus would be spread abroad. He always distrusted a company which advertised very much. If the company were a rotten company depending entirely on the names on what Mr. Hooley called "the front page," it would be found that it would be before the public for a week or more, and the longer it was before the public and the longer the prospectus, the presumption was the worse was the company. So far as newspapers were concerned, if they looked only to their own interests and not to the interests of the public, they would be very glad to have the system of abridged prospectuses. Then it had been pointed out that there were no penalties in the Bill, and that all its clauses were a series of pious opinions. There might be a prosecution by some roundabout way at common law, but why not have adopted the usual system and included specific penalties in the Bill? The right hon. Gentleman was so enamoured of the measure that he absolutely refused to make any change in it. As to one man companies, they were generally swindles. Of course, a perfectly honest man might for family reasons wish to convert his business into a private company, but as a general rule the man who wished to convert his business into a company did so either because he found the business was going down or because for the preceding two or three years there had been very large profits which he wished to capitalise. Then he started his company without a prospectus. The shares were sold to the public, he himself keeping the debentures, and in a little while when the company went into liquidation the shareholders got nothing. The one man company was a danger which ought to have been dealt with in the Bill, but they had absolutely shirked it. Then as to brokers: would the right hon. Gentleman inform the House what was a "lawful brokerage"? Every hon. Member connected with the Stock Exchange would bear him out when he stated that, while there were many honest brokers who took a fair and legitimate brokerage, there were a great many other people, some of them members of the Stock Exchange and others solicitors, who took an enormous brokerage. They were told that they could have a call on £1 shares for 15s.; that if they sold them they would get 5s. a share, and that if they did not they would not lose anything. Such a broker sent out circulars to his clients and informed them what excellent shares he could offer them, his clients, of course, having no idea that the broker was doing anything except looking after their interests. In that way, not only in the case of new companies but also in the case of old companies, the public were robbed throughout the country. He was not a sentimentalist. A great deal had been said about widows and orphans, but generally the widow was "a stag," and the orphan did not take shares. It was stated that an investor would send for the full prospectus before he applied for shares. That was simply nonsense. An investor in the country saw a prospectus which stated that the list would close for the country to-morrow morning; how could he send for a prospectus? The Bill was to go before the House of Lords. He was was not a warm admirer of the House of Lords, but every institution in the world which had lasted for a long time had something to be said for it. In the House of Lords there were a large number of legal gentlemen who were particularly qualified to deal with the matters connected with the Bill, and he sincerely hoped that the House of Lords would show it was a useful body, by dealing with the Bill in a very different manner to that in which it had been dealt with in the House of Commons. There was a good deal in the Bill which ought not to be in it, and there was a good deal not in it which ought to be in it. As the Bill stood at present he believed it would have been better in the public interest if it had not been passed that session, but that next session, with the knowledge they had before them, a good practical Bill should be brought in and discussed at a time when its provisions could be properly examined.

MR. MARKS (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) said he did not think the hon. Gentleman the Member for Northampton had quite made out a case for the sweeping condemnation with which he had opened his speech. The hon. Gentleman said this was one of the worst of the many bad Bills which he had discussed. He had less experience of very bad Bills than the hon. Member; but he was bound to say if what the hon. Member had said of this Bill was the worst that could be said of it, the Government had to be congratulated on a very fair achievement. It was by no means, in his judgment, a perfect Bill. It was true many things had been left out of the Bill which might have been put into it, and a few things were put in which might have been left out; but at the same time, when one considered the circumstances under which the measure had been brought before the House, it was perfectly obvious that two or three of the chief evils of company promotion had been dealt with in an effective manner. In the matter of disclosure in the prospectus the Bill went as far as any reasonable Bill could go. There was the obligation to disclose important facts in connection with the formation of the company, the obligation to disclose the terms upon which underwriting was obtained——

MR. LABOUCHERE: There is the obligation to disclose what the company pays for underwriting; but, at the same time, a promoter may add to that by paying what he likes.

MR. MARKS said that was perfectly true; but, at all events, the company had to disclose the amount paid by it for underwriting. It was absolutely impossible for it to disclose what another person might pay for underwriting. He had pointed this out in Committee. Another important feature was the obligation on a company to register its mortgages of a certain class, and to endorse on mortgage debentures, when they are issued, the fact of their registration. There were, however, two important omissions from the Bill which militated very much against it. In the first place, it did not deal with what was known as the non-prospectus or the private company. The authors of the Bill had proceeded under the impression that subscriptions to all limited companies were obtained by means of prospectuses duly published. Those who were familiar with the facts were aware that in the majority of these companies, many of which had caused disaster to investors, the subscriptions were not obtained by the issue of a public prospectus. In order to deal with the evils at which the Bill was aimed it was essential that the non-prospectus companies should be dealt with; but they had not been dealt with. He regretted that the most useful proposal of the hon. and learned Member for South Leeds—that there should be an obligation to file, at the time of the company's registration, a Memorandum that would serve as a prospectus at all stages of the company's history—was refused by the Government. When the Act was in operation it would be found that the rejection of that Amendment was a fatal flaw in the measure, and had deprived it of what would have been its most valuable feature. One other point might be emphasised, which it might not be too late to remedy in the House of Lords—namely, the manner in which the registration of a certain class of charges had been dealt with. The great object which joint-stock company reformers had lately had in view had been to protect trade creditors. This class was not effectively protected by the provisions of the Bill. There was no safeguard in reference to the charges upon uncalled capital. In the case where inspection of the register of mortgages was provided for, the inspection was limited to the actual shareholders and creditors of the company; but these were not the people most concerned to know the financial condition of the company The person most concerned was the intending creditor. The person so situated looked at the list of shareholders and found a large number of respectable names, and that there was £50,000 or £60,000 of uncalled capital. On the strength of that he gave credit to the company. He was not aware that behind his back the company had mortgaged its unpaid capital to a bank or a money-lending intsitution. Such a person had no means of finding out the financial condition of the company before he gave it credit, and if he inquired at the offices of the company he would stand a very poor chance of getting any orders. He felt that in the two important respects he had mentioned the Bill fell short of what might be expected.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that though they had devoted a good deal of time and labour to the Bill, yet they had not spent enough time and pains on it. The Bill had been before the House of Lords for four years, and he did not see why the Government should not have sent it to the Commons Grand Committee in March instead of in July, when they were obliged to act under a constant sense of hurry and pressure. Moreover, the Government appeared to him to have been too much in fear of an unseen and malignant influence, which appeared to him to be the influence of the House of Lords. The Bill which was originally introduced in the other House was a far more drastic measure than the present Bill, and he was of opinion that many desirable Amendments had been refused by the Government, not because they were not right in themselves, but merely because they thought it would be more difficult to pass the measure through the other House. He could not, therefore, agree with the hon. Member for Northampton, who had expressed an admiration for that body, which would evoke all the more gratitude because it was so unexpected. Looking at the part which the other House had played in preventing the Bill going further, and in cutting it down while it was before them, he thought it would be seen that the critical faculty of the House of Lords greatly exceeded its constructive faculty. The House of Lords possessed eminent legal knowledge and great power, but they rejected a proposal lest in one case in a hundred it might work badly. They could not possibly effect amendments in the law without taking some risk, and it appeared to him that the House of Lords should take some risk in matters of this kind. In their anxiety to protect the honest man, they left the meshes wide enough for others to slip through, and he was, therefore obliged to agree that the measure was not a very satisfactory one, although he did not largely blame the Government for the reasons he had mentioned. Now they had come to the end of the Bill many of them must feel, as a man sometimes did when he had finished writing a book, that then he knew how to write it, and would like to begin and write it all again. They had certainly realised the extraordinary difficulties of the subject, and that was why he congratulated the right hon. Gentlemen on having passed even this Bill. The difficulties were attributable not only to the fact that new practices came into being in business, and that diverse interests of directors, shareholders, and creditors had to be regarded, but to the fact that the main object of the Bill was to deal with fraud. The maxim that fraud was infinite was two thousand years old; but it was as true now as it ever was. It was not much use trying to anticipate and prevent the particular forms which fraud had heretofore taken, because one might feel sure when one hole had been stopped the rabbit would get into the garden through another. Therefore he was not very sanguine as to the method they had adopted of inventing a great number of detailed provisions to counterwork and prevent the devices by which fraud might seek to attain its ends. He was not sure that they would not have done better to try and pass a simpler and shorter Bill, of which the main purpose should be the laying down more broadly of the doctrine of the kind of good faith and honesty required from promoters and directors and every person occupying a fiduciary position. We ought to put the promoter not in a position regarding which precautions should be taken, but in the position of a man bound to exercise the utmost good faith. The best way of dealing with this Protean subject of fraud was to arm our courts with greater powers, and that, he thought, ought to have been done. Of course, that meant giving a considerable discretion to the courts, but he thought that might safely be done. The great difficulty in the way was that when they trusted to the courts they were obliged to trust to people to bring actions, and there was a great indisposition to resort to criminal procedure, and juries had a tendency to let people off for doing what was only the common practice. From civil actions he had more hope, but the constant reproach of our law was the fearful expense and difficulty of putting it into motion, and the question of the reform of the company law was therefore really a branch of the wider question of making the law of England more effective and cheaper. That being so, he could not join in the severe com demnation passed on the Bill. He thought there were some good points in it, and though he regretted that nothing had been done with the non-prospectus companies and the one-man companies, still they had got some distinct gain from the Bill; and, remembering how long they had had to wait for it, he did not think the Government would have done well to wait until next session. But they had not reached anything like finality, and they would have to watch with the greatest care the results of the experiment they were now trying. Considering how difficult the subject was, and the extraordinary want of knowledge which most Members of the House possessed about this very special subject, he was not prepared to say that the Bill was at all to be disparaged or that they might not have to look on it as a distinct step forward. He would join, therefore, in the congratulations which had been addressed to the right hon. Gentleman on the perseverance and open-mindedness he had shown, and although he could not regard the measure as final, still a good deal would be learned from its working. He hoped, however, that the President of the Board of Trade would keep before his mind the probability that in a few years they would be in a position to pass a measure which would remedy some of the defects that would then have been disclosed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said that whatever he might say with regard to some of the observations made on this Bill, he certainly had no fault to find with the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. In fact, he agreed with much that the right hon. Gentleman had said. He would have been very glad if it had been possible to make this a more complete Bill than it was. To a certain extent the Bill was in the nature of an experiment, and with regard to its merits they could only be determined by seeing how they would work out in operation. No claim could be made for the Bill anything in the shape of finality. Indeed, he would be inclined to say that it seemed to be a fault in our legislation that we attempted to deal with many matters much more comprehensively than was prudent, and he thought a great deal was to be said for moving tentatively, especially in connection with a measure of this kind. There was one remark of the right hon. Gentleman with which he confessed he was not quite in accord. The right hon. Gentleman said that when we finished the Bill last night we felt very much as a man feels who has finished an interesting book and desires to read it all over again.

MR. BRYCE: What I said was that we felt like a man who had written an interesting book, and who, when he came to the end of it, thought that now that he knew how to write it he would like to begin and write it all over again.

MR. RITCHIE said that was not his feeling last night when the Bill got through. Many difficult and complex questions had to be discussed, and he was very glad when they were finished. Several of the speeches which had been made had been delivered with a view to showing once again to the House how strong were the arguments with which hon. Gentlemen supported the Amendments they moved, but he did not think he should usefully occupy the time of the House if he entered into a discussion of details or attempted to reply to arguments which had been addressed to the House more than once. The right hon. Gentleman said he would prefer a shorter and a simpler Bill. His view would be to give greater power to the courts; but he answered himself by showing that that would involve going to the courts and entailing an enormous expense, and was, therefore, a course which was open to considerable objection. He (Mr. Ritchie) thought he ought to remind the House, in answer to the complaints which had been made by some hon. Gentlemen that the Bill was not as fully discussed as the importance of the subject warranted, of the history of the measure. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen knew very well that the Departmental Committee was appointed by himself. The subject of company law reform was originally investigated by the Departmental Committee, comprised of some of Her Majesty's judges, able lawyers, and eminent merchants who were in touch with the commercial world. The Bill which emanated from that Committee was not exactly the Bill they had before them now, but it was very much on the same lines; although the Bill introduced by his representative in the House of Lords four years ago was exactly in the shape recommended by the Departmental Committee, it was afterwards amended by a Select Committee of the House of Lords. When the hon. Gentleman the Member for Northampton expressed his confidence in the House of Lords and in the popularity of its Members, he was glad to hear him.

MR. LABOUCHERE: The Law Lords.

MR. RITCHIE: The Law Lords! He was still more glad to hear it; because this Bill had been under the consideration of a Committee of the most eminent Law Lords for no less than four years, and that Committee had had before it men the most eminently capable of giving information in regard to company law. It was true that it seemed sometimes to hang fire in the other House, and the reason for that was that these eminent lawyers were very much occupied, and could not devote that amount of time to it which they in the House of Commons could do. The hon. Member must therefore feel a glow of satisfaction when he knew that that critical examination into this question which he advocated had already taken place by the House of Lords and by its most eminent Members. It was only natural that when a Bill came down to that House with such a recommendation as that there should be very little doubt about any very material point in it. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had spoken of the extreme difficulty of the subject. No doubt it was extremely difficult, and a sort of subject which he undertook to say, whatever shape the Bill had assumed in that or the other House, would not have satisfied everybody. It must be remembered that this was a matter which must be dealt with with extremely great caution. The enormous bulk of the companies of this country had been very successful, and had done great things for our commerce and industry, and in endeavouring to hit at the undoubted defects in the law, and strike at undoubted fraudulent concerns, they must take extreme care not to make the law so drastic that honest men would be prevented from becoming directors of honest concerns, while the worst class of director would not be deterred from joining in the formation of fraudulent companies. That had always been present to his mind throughout the whole course of the discussion on the Bill. He had felt on many occasions that there had been a good deal to be said for some of the Amendments proposed by hon. Members on both sides of the House, and for many of the Amendments he had a sneaking regard. But he had always in his mind the great fear, already stated, that by accepting some of them it would make it difficult for good men to join good companies as directors, while the worst class of company directors would not be prevented in any way from undertaking the risks of joining in the formation of companies which were not so good. It had been said that they had been rather hurrying on this measure. He would have been glad if it had been introduced at an earlier stage of the session. It had been on the tapis for four or five years, and a great number of its provisions had been asked for by the great mass of the commercial community, and although the House might differ on some points in the Bill, he was satisfied that it was in the interest of the commercial community generally that this reform of company law ought not to be kept hanging over year after year, and should not be further delayed. Although he should have liked to see it introduced earlier in the session, he did not think there were any grounds for saying that the House of Commons had not had an opportunity of adequately considering it. As the right hon. the Member for Aberdeen said, seven days had been spent on it in Grand Committee, and every one of the points—far more than had been raised in the House itself—that could have occurred to the ingenuity of any one in regard to company law, had been brought before and discussed by the Committee in a business-like and capable manner. He must therefore say that he did not think there was any just reason for complaint that the House of Commons had passed this measure in a hurry, and without time for the consideration of Amendments desired to be put forward by hon. Gentlemen. In fact, on the Report stage, many of the most important questions touched on in Committee were discussed again. He was much obliged to the right hon. Member for South Aberdeen, and the right hon.

and learned Member for Dumfries Burghs, for the manner in which they had spoken of the part which his colleagues, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, had taken in this matter. They had tried to consider in a fair and reasonable manner all the proposals put before them, and if they had not accepted all the Amendments, it was because they believed they would not advance the cause they had at heart, and would not have the effect that they desired in preventing men from engaging in these undertakings. He believed himself that the full disclosure of the position of the companies sought to be formed—which was the real principle of the Bill—would have a very considerable effect in enlightening the public mind, and in its operation it would have a very beneficial effect on the country, if not all that some of them had hoped. It was possible and extremely probable that, after seeing the working of the Bill for some longer or shorter time, they should be able from the experience so derived to do something more in undertaking further reforms.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he would not detain the House more than a few moments. He would not say anything after the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, especially as the right hon. Member for South Aberdeen was not present, except on two definite points. He did not wish to criticise the Bill at all, but only to urge two points. The first was that this Bill was directed substantially against fraud. He believed that the Bill might be useful, though he was afraid it would not do as much as the right hon. Gentleman expected. But there were constantly occurring, every year, the most scandalous and gross frauds in company administration; and he did not think that there had been a sufficient use of the existing criminal law for the purpose of punishing, according to the law as it existed, those gross frauds by which many millions sterling every year were taken out of the pockets of honest and confiding people and put into the pockets of thieves and scoundrels, for they were nothing better. He ventured to suggest to the Attorney General that he should keep a very close eye on what was going on, and what was perfectly well known. In cases which were really fraudulent the Attorney General should put the sharp edge of the criminal law into force for the purpose of preventing these scandalous things which they knew were constantly going on. The criminal law had, in fact, become a by-word in connection with company administration. There was a second suggestion he had to make. An Amendment had been introduced into the Bill for the purpose of enabling a public examination to take place in those cases where the official receiver had made a report. He ventured to make the further suggestion—if it was not too late, with a view to a passage of the Bill through the other House — that cases of compulsory liquidation were very small in number; but there was no means of public examination in cases of voluntary liquidation, no matter how scandalous these had been, or in cases of liquidation under the supervision of the court. The publicity of examinations under the Bankruptcy Act of 1883 had been most effective. The Colonial Secretary, who was then President of the Board of Trade, pointed in 1883 to the necessity of publicity in any bankruptcy proceedings, and maintained with great force that not only the creditors, but the public, had an interest in the disclosures of frauds, irregularities and improprieties. The gentleman at present at the head of the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade had repeatedly drawn attention to the very same thing, and said that one of the best means of preventing frauds was publicity. They could not have public examinations as the law now stood, except in the small number—and it was a decreasing number—of cases of compulsory liquidation. He ventured to suggest that more effective than even the clauses of this Bill, would be publicity, and the provision that men who were guilty of disgraceful conduct in getting up and in the management of companies should not be able, by means of voluntary liquidation, to shield themselves from public contempt, and it might be from criminal prosecution.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said he rose to say only a word in regard to the first suggestion of his hon. and learned friend. He seemed to think that there had been some remissness in bringing the criminal law into operation in connection with company frauds. He could not help thinking that if his hon. and learned friend had closely followed the prosecutions during the last few years——

SIR ROBERT REID said he did not mean to imply censure.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was quite sure his hon. friend did not imply any censure. There had been a considerable number of prosecutions for fraud in connection with companies, and he thought that in most of these cases convictions had resulted. He must remind his hon. friend of the fact that before entering on prosecutions of this kind it was necessary to be tolerably sure that they had sufficient evidence to ensure that justice would be done. It would be a great evil if a prosecution of this kind ended in a fiasco. There might be little doubt that a gross fraud had taken place, but it might be extremely difficult to get the necessary evidence. He could not help thinking that when his hon. friend spoke of the criminal law being rather a by-word, he was exaggerating. When the present Master of the Rolls was Attorney General the same vigilance was brought to bear in cases of this kind as when his hon. and learned friend occupied the same office. He could assure the House that the attention of the Public Prosecutor and of himself would not be relaxed, and whenever they could see their way, where it was desirable in the public interests that prosecutions should be undertaken, there would be no remissness.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

THIRD READING.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said, on a point of order he wished to show that this Bill dealt with a new Naval Volunteer force. By reference there was introduced into the Bill all the provisions of t e Naval Volunteer Act of 1859. The provisions of that Act entitled the Lords of the Admiralty to give pensions and certain remuneration to those who were in that reserve force. This Bill established a new Naval Volunteer force, which was to be paid in the same way as the existing Royal Naval Volunteers, and that, of course, involved a large payment out of the Imperial funds. His contention was that the clause in the Bill in that respect was really an enabling clause to make a charge on the Consolidated Fund, and therefore should have first been introduced by resolution in Committee of Ways and Means. Take as an example the Lunacy Board (Scotland) Bill. That Bill was introduced in the ordinary way by the Lord Advocate, who, however, afterwards withdrew it, and then introduced it in Committee, on the ground that it was a Money Bill, and should be so introduced. He understood that Mr. Speaker had made some observation that, where the money was to be paid out under the sanction of Parliament afterwards, a resolution in Committee was not necessary, but in the Lunacy Board (Scotland) Bill all the money was to be paid by Vote of Parliament. He might point out, also, that they were in a very different position from what they were a few years ago, because they had, by the new procedure, closure of Supply.

*MR. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with a point of order.

MR. CALDWELL submitted, on a point of order, that where money was authorised by Act of Parliament to be paid, whether a Vote of Parliament subsequently was necessary or not, the practice and rule of the House was that the Act should be preceded by a money resolution in Committee.

*MR. SPEAKER: An objection of this kind should have been taken before the Bill was read a second time. It is too late to take it now after the Bill has passed through Committee and been ordered for Third Reading. But I ought to add that Bills of this kind have always been brought in, not in Committee, but by leave. There was a series of Naval Reserve or Enlistment Bills of a similar character to this

Bill so introduced in 1859 and 1867; and in 1884 there was the Naval Discipline Bill. In all of these powers were given to the Admiralty to make regulations for the pay and pensions of new forces, and they were brought in by leave and not treated as subject to the rule to which the hon. Member refers as affecting the introduction of Money Bills. The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that I have ever stated it as a general rule that where money is to be voted by Parliament afterwards, the preliminary Committee stage is not required.

MR. CALDWELL said he had a few observations to make on the Third Reading of the Bill. This Bill, if passed, would make a new constitutional departure. Hitherto Parliament had acted on the footing that wherever a Reserve force was authorised by the country the number of the men should be put into the Act, and also the amount of payment and the conditions of service. Under the Volunteer Act of 1859, to which this Bill referred, the number of Volunteers was fixed at a number not exceeding 30,000. There was obviously a constitutional advantage in Parliament fixing the number of men forming the Reserve and the conditions of service, as a protection against the Executive of the day assuming the functions which should be reserved to Parliament as a whole. Now, by this Bill a new division of the Naval Reserve was to be created, but its numbers were not limited by any provision in the Bill; they might be 20,000 or 30,000, and that he held to be a constitutional departure. Another point was that by the Act of 1859 the period of service was fixed at five years, but by this Bill no period was fixed; it might be five or ten years. It all depended on the conditions of the pensions and the conditions of enlistment and employment. That was an altogether new departure on the part of a Government which claimed to be the constitutional party. It did not seem to him that that part of the Bill making it compulsory on all who received pensions to go into the Reserve for an indefinite number of years would have the effect of securing many men for this particular force. In his opinion it would be a great advantage if they spread out as much as possible, both in the Army and Navy, the men who were to serve. Unless they did so they would weaken instead of strengthen the country. He looked upon the Bill as an entirely new departure, and no information had been given as to why powers of so important a character should be asked for. The House was entitled to complain of so important a measure being brought in at so late a period of the session, when it could not receive adequate discussion. Moving the rejection of the Bill would have no other result than a walk through the lobbies, and that being so, he should not move the motion standing in his name. The only object for putting it down was to protest against the Third Reading.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND) BILL.

As amended, considered.

A Clause (Composition of Board)—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) submitted that this was rather more than a mere drafting Amendment. Clause 4 required that the Board which was to exercise power under this Act should be a new one and not the old one, and the clause drawn by the right hon. Gentleman would not have the effect desired. It would be competent under this clause for the Lord Lieutenant to delay the nomination of the new members, and allow the old Board to exercise the powers under this Act.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) admitted that that point had escaped him, and he undertook to put the clause in such a form as would meet the objection.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time, and added.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that when Clause 3 was before the Committee strong protests were raised against it. For the benefit of those who were not present on that occasion he might point out that that clause was of a most extraordinary character. In the administration of its office the Board acted quite independently of the Civil Service rule; the employees were not subjected to competitive examinations, and they were nominated on the strict understanding that they were not to have pensions, and their salaries were fixed on that basis. In the face of that, this clause was brought in providing for the pension of these persons, who were appointed by the mere favour of the ruling class in Ireland, quite irrespective of their qualification. If they were Civil servants they ought, in the ordinary course, to be pensioned out of English funds, but in this case it was proposed to pay these pensions out of a purely Irish fund.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 8, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words 'on the condition and.'"—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said he could not accept the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendments made.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I merely wish to ask the Government whether there is any hope of getting to the end of these continuous Poor Relief Bills for Ireland, and whether the Chief Secretary will make some attempt to codify the statute law.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said that the codification of the Poor Relief laws was occupying the attention of the Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL [Lords].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN suggested that some member of the Government should explain the object of the Bill.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): It may be convenient that I should first give my views in regard to the Bill. My belief is that this Bill is not necessary. I believe that the prerogative of the Queen already covers the prohibition of "the exportation of arms, ammunition, and military and naval stores," and so forth, when she has reason to believe that they will be used against her, without any Act of Parliament at all. If that be so it is somewhat belittling the prerogative to introduce a Bill in order to give the Sovereign power she possesses already. I understand, however, that that belief is not shared by Her Majesty's law advisers. I therefore do not insist upon it. The first thing I remark regarding the Bill is that while it extends power to the Sovereign to prohibit by proclamation the exportation of arms, not generally, but to certain specified places, it also very materially diminishes the category of prohibition, if I may use the term. Here I may say that this is a Bill which really is drafted in the most obnoxious way. It refers to a previous Act. Clause 2 says—

"This Act shall be read as one with the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1879, and all the provisions of that Act, so far as they are applicable to the exportation of prohibited goods, shall apply as if they were embodied in this Act, and as if Section 1 of this Act were part of Section 8 of that Act."

I turned to the Act of 1879 in the Revised Statutes, and there is not a word in it about exportation of arms, but there you are referred to the schedule of a previous Act. When I got to that other Act I found it was really the Customs Laws Consolidation Act of 1876, the material section of that measure being No. 138, and here the House will see how very much larger the power of prohibition given by that section is as compared with what is proposed to be given by this Bill. The section reads as follows—

> "The following goods may, by proclamation or Order in Council, be prohibited either in, to be exported, or carried coast-wise: arms, ammunition, and gunpowder, military and naval stores, and any articles which Her Majesty shall judge capable of being converted into or made useful in increasing the quantity of military or naval stores, provisions or any sort of victual which may be used as food for man, and if any goods so prohibited shall be exported or brought to any quay or other place to be shipped for exportation from the United Kingdom or carried coast-wise, or be waterborne to be so exported or carried, they shall be forfeited."

Why is it proposed by this Bill that Her Majesty should only be able to do by proclamation that which can be done under the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876 either by Order in Council or by proclamation? Is it to be said that this section is embodied as a part of this Bill? I do not think that can really be said, because the House will see that there are considerable differences. In the section that I have just read it will be observed that there are two categories, "arms and ammunition" and "military and naval stores," and in addition to that there are any other articles which are capable of being converted into the munitions of war. I think that is very important indeed, because there are things that are not in themselves military or naval stores. For instance, there is the whole category of chemicals. They are not embodied in this Bill. It is right, no doubt, that Her Majesty should have the right to prohibit the exportation of arms, ammunition, and military and naval stores when she has reason to believe that they would be used against her, but it is no less important that she should also have the power to prohibit the exportation of the other articles enumerated in the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876—namely, articles which may be judged capable of being converted into, or made useful as, military and naval stores. High explosives are made out of chemicals which are largely made in this country. The Government have already found it necessary to prohibit the export of certain chemicals. If it has been necessary to do that in a general manner, surely it is necessary to put power to do that in this Bill. The second clause of the Bill is an instance of allusive or referential drafting of the most malignant character. I would suggest for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government whether it would not be proper to introduce in the first clause of this Bill the 138th Section of the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876. I also wish to ask a question upon a point of international law. Do naval and military stores include coal? I believe they do. I have very little doubt about it. I have seen correspondence in connection with the war with Russia in 1854, whereby Sir Charles Napier was ordered to capture coal destined for Russian ports as contraband. In 1870–71, Her Majesty's Government prohibited the exportation of English coal to French fleets. I have made these remarks I need hardly say in no hostile spirit to the Bill or to the Government, but out of anxiety that what we do we should do thoroughly, and that there should be no loophole left.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not know that the Bill requires very much explanation. Its origin, at all events, is, I think, present to the mind of every one. Our national conscience has been stirred by the reflection that we were actually exporting to China warlike stores, guns, and ammunition which were intended to be used, and probably would be used, in destroying the lives of our fellow-countrymen or in injuring our allies. I do not think that is a tolerable condition of things, and it is to remedy that that we introduce the present Bill. I am sure neither the right hon. Gentleman opposite nor my hon. friend objects to the general policy which the Bill is intended to carry out. All that my hon. friend wants is to be satisfied as to certain detailed points which he has raised. The first of those points relates to the old discussion, so often renewed in this House, as to legislation by reference. The inconveniences of the system, of course, are obvious, and cannot be denied—it is a balance between difficulties. I feel quite sure that if my hon. friend were responsible for the Bill and its conduct through the House, he would hesitate to cumber and overload the Bill with the very large number of provisions which are dealt with summarily by reference in the second clause of the Bill. Such a procedure would lead to very unnecessary discussion. I do not think the particular reference in question is obscure: it is of an extremely simple, straightforward, and plain-sailing character. I do not think that any particular complaint need be raised by my hon. friend on that score. My hon. friend also asked whether the Crown already had not by prerogative all the powers which this Bill will confer. My hon. and learned friend the Attorney General is more capable of giving an authoritative answer tc that question than I am, but I am informed that this Bill is in fact really necessary if we are to prohibit these stores going to the country where fighting is going on against our countrymen, but with which, nevertheless, we are not technically at war, although we are perhaps really at war. The next question of my hon. friend was as to the extension of the Bill to coal, and whether it ought not to be so drawn as to include what are not actually warlike stores but the raw material out of which warlike stores may be made. As regards coal, I believe if the coal is to be used for warlike purposes it would come under the provisions of this Bill; it would count as a warlike store, and it would be possible for the Crown to prohibit its export. Raw materials for warlike stores are not, I think, included in the Bill, but that is a matter upon which the Attorney General will speak with more certainty. I confess I think my hon. friend in calling attention to this point has made out a good case for their inclusion, and there will be no difficulty in introducing words making the Bill more complete in this respect, and this, under certain circumstances, may be of great importance. I do not know whether the Chinese are provided with factories where raw material can rapidly and effectually be converted into warlike munitions, but if they have such the object of the Bill would not be accomplished if the component parts of warlike supplies were permitted to be exported to China from this country. As no question of policy arises, I hope the House will consent to pass the Second Reading of the Bill without unnecessary delay.

*Colonel BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) said the mining interests were to a certain extent alarmed at the Bill, though he thought they entertained an exaggerated opinion of its effects. He desired to know whether it would be possible to specify a particular kind of coal without stopping the supply of all the rest. For instance, smokeless coal might be very useful for warlike purposes, and it might be possible to stop the exportation of that without interfering with other supplies.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: My hon. friend who spoke first raised the question whether all that is done by the Bill may not be done by the prerogative of the Crown without legislation. I certainly do not desire to abandon any prerogative of the Crown, but I think my hon. friend will see that we might have some interesting State trials through not having recourse to legislation, and under the circumstances, it has been thought better to proceed in the regular way by bringing this Bill before Parliament. Although in the Customs Laws Consolidation Act there is power to prohibit exportation of arms, munitions of war, and so forth, there is no power of discriminating between countries. If exercised at all the power must be exercised to prohibit exportation to all parts of the world, and what is now wanted is power to prohibit exportation to certain countries, if that should be really necessary. The hon. Member for the Ince Division asked a question as to coal, and that point was also touched upon by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. I have no hesitation in saying that steam coal, or coal suitable for use in vessels of war, would fall under the category of naval stores. The propriety of extending the Bill has been suggested. While the words which are in the Bill are considered adequate, I do not apprehend that there could be any objection to the widening of the terms so as to include all materials capable of being converted into naval or military stores. Probably discrimination such as was suggested in relation to coal might be secured by the use of the words "all or any of the articles enumerated in the Bill." If the hon. Member for King's Lynn will look at the 14th Section of the Act of 1879 he will see that there is reference to the schedule of the earlier Act. I think my hon. friend will feel on reflection that it was not desirable to give *in extenso* all the articles already specified in the previous Acts to which reference has been made.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

VOLUNTEERS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

*MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): The object of the proviso which I desire to move is to make it necessary that within ten days of calling out the Volunteers Parliament shall be summoned. That provision already applies in the case of the Reserve forces. Under Clause 13 of the Reserve Forces Act, 1882, it is necessary that Parliament should be called together within ten days of the calling out of the Reserve forces, and the words of the clause I have put down are taken from that Act. It is true that no such provision is contained in the Volunteers Act, and it has never been necessary that Parliament should be called together when the Volunteers were called out. If the Volunteers Act remained as it has been hitherto there would be no necessity for a clause of this kind; but that Act is being very greatly changed by the Bill now before us, and the conditions under which the Volunteers may be called out are enormously extended. Instead of being perfectly definite they have become very indefinite, so that it is quite impossible for anybody to say exactly under what conditions in future Volunteers may not be called out. Under these circumstances it seems to me that the provision which was found necessary in the case of the Reserve forces is at least as necessary in the case of the Volunteers. The Under Secretary of State for War, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, referred to this matter. He spoke of the provision in the Reserve Forces Act as being to some extent unnecessary, and he appeared to think it was a sort of sacrifice on the altar of Whig traditions. I do not think that at all, and I do not believe anybody, at any rate on this side of the House, would think it right that the Reserve forces should be called out without Parliament being summoned. Nobody will dispute the gravity of the circumstances which alone would justify the calling out of the Volunteers. The Under Secretary has stated that within the first month of calling out the Volunteers the cost to the country would be at least £3,000,000. On the ground of cost alone it is necessary that Parliament should be called together very speedily. The main ground on which I advocate this provision is that the terms of the Bill as it stands are extremely vague, and when a grave step of this kind is taken, the least you can do is to call Parliament together within the shortest time practicable. It may be alleged, on the other hand, that Parliament, in any case, would be called together, because you will not call out the Volunteers until you have called out the Reserve forces, and when you do that you will be obliged to call Parliament together. The effect of that argument is to show that this provision would be superfluous, but I am not at all sure that it is superfluous. It is conceivable that the Reserve forces might have already been called out, and that Parliament might have been called together in accordance with the Act, and might have adjourned. It is not true to say that we have perfect security as things stand. The Under Secretary for War, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, spoke of the unnecessary scruples of Parliament in introducing this provision in the Reserve Forces Act, and he said that provision was introduced to meet dangers which, to a large extent, were illusory. He said that those dangers were killed and buried by our ancestors nearly 200 years ago, and he went on to say that if anyone wished to perform ceremonial rites over their graves he should have no objection to them moving to insert an Amendment. I therefore hope that the Under Secretary will accept this Amendment, in accordance with the undertaking which he gave us in moving the Second Reading of the Bill. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'emergency,' to insert the words, 'Provided always, that whenever Her Majesty directs the calling out of the Volunteer forces for actual military service, if Parliament be then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of Parliament within ten days, and Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed of such proclamation, and shall continue to sit and act in like manner as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day.' "—(*Mr. C. P. Scott.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I venture to hope that the hon. Gentleman, on the part of the Government, will accept this Amendment, and I hope with greater confidence because of those words which my hon. friend has just quoted in which the Under Secretary for War practically expressed his willingness to accept an Amendment of this kind if it were pressed upon him. As a matter of common practical experience, it is desirable to have some limitation upon the power of calling out the Volunteers involved in a question of actual invasion, that there should be some check placed upon any wantonness or inconsiderateness in using this power of calling out the Volunteers, and that check is naturally to be found in the necessity of calling Parliament together. As my hon. friend has pointed out, after all, that is no inconvenience to the authorities or the Executive, because when they decide to call out the Volunteers they must have previously embodied the Militia and called out the Reserves. There is no reason why we should not have in this Bill, as a necessary safeguard, the stipulation which has been found to be necessary in the case of the other forces mentioned. I think the hon. Member, even if he regards it as superfluous, may very well accept it, and I hope he will, in view of what he said on the Second Reading, allow this Amendment to be inserted in the Bill.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The Leader of the Opposition has said that on the Second Reading of this Bill I expressed my willingness to accept an Amendment of this character, but I should have thought that unwillingness would have been a more accurate description of the tone of my remarks on that subject. I do not think the criticisms which have been made have been addressed to the difficulties which we should have to face should any occasion arise for the calling out of the Volunteers. I stated in a previous speech that in former times the nation was jealous of such power because they feared it might be used to restrict the liberties of the people, and they feared the standing armies of William III. and George II. because the existence of such armies might entangle them in continental quarrels. But that fear existed in respect of standing armies which they thought could be used to put down the liberties of the people or might be used on the continent of Europe. The Volunteers could not be used for either one or the other purpose. They could not be used for restricting the liberties of the people, and they could not be removed from our shores. This is not a practical Amendment, and I would urge upon the hon. Member who has moved it, and upon the Leader of the Opposition, that if this Amendment has any effect, that effect will not be the one which they seek, but just the opposite. The introduction of this Amendment into the Bill will cast doubt upon what I claim to be the fact, that this Act does not alter in any degree the purpose for which the Volunteer forces exist. The Volunteer forces exist to repel invasion, and all that we ask for is that words should not be put into the mouth of the Sovereign, which would be extremely inconvenient during a great crisis. The fact that the Volunteers exist only to repel invasion remains as true when this Bill is passed as it was before. It would cost £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 to call out the Volunteers of this country, and a fortnight's pay, without all the appurtenances and munitions of war, has cost the country £750,000 this summer. Therefore, I think it is idle to pretend that any Government will call out the Volunteers under these circumstances except in the case of an apprehended invasion, and they could not be called out for any other purpose. Then said the Leader of the Opposition, there are no inconveniences could attach to the acceptance of such an Amendment. That is precisely what the Amendment would do, for it would create inconvenience. It would lay down at a time when every department is overstrained to meet a great crisis that Parliament is to meet upon, say, a Wednesday instead of upon a Friday or Wednesday week. It would have just that effect and nothing more. You could not call out the Volunteers to repel an invasion, because this proposal would lay down that Parliament should meet on that day ten days. I think that would be a very inconvenient provision to add to the many difficulties with which the Executive Government would have to cope upon such an occasion. I must therefore ask the Committee not to accept this Amendment, and I cannot admit that I am bound to accept it by my speech on the Second Reading. I think I have always been careful to observe and fulfil any undertakings which I have given, but I did in that speech all I could to induce the House to accept the Bill which I brought in. The House did not accept that Bill. There must be give and take in these matters, and having given more than my pound of flesh, perhaps I may be allowed to take the sense of the House upon my right to resist this Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL said the words proposed were exactly the same as those in the Reserve Forces Act, and the Amendment proposed to take exactly the same procedure. The Under Secretary seemed to think that it was an extraordinary thing when the Volunteers were called out that Parliament should be called together within ten days, but that was the very provision in the case of calling out the Reserve forces. Did anyone imagine that they were going to call out the Volunteers in a great emergency without having first called out the Reserve forces? Such a thing was inconceivable. Having discarded the words "actual invasion" and adopted "imminent national danger," all they were asked by this Amendment was that when they did call out the Volunteers they should call Parliament together in the very same way as they were bound to do when they called out the Reserve forces. He could not understand why these words should be objected to. It was all very well to say that the Volunteers could not be sent out of the country; but in the event of a national danger an Act could be passed in one single night to call out the Volunteers, because Parliament could do anything. Those who seem to think that the Volunteers only existed to defend this country were mistaken, because Parliament could pass an Act to-morrow to send the Volunteers abroad if necessary. If they did call out the Volunteers it ought to be necessary that they should call Parliament together, and he hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) said the hon. Member had already told them that it was impossible to call out the Volunteers until the Reserves had been called out. Therefore if the Reserves were called out first Parliament would be called together, and therefore there was no necessity for the Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL said his point was that they should not give power to call out the Volunteer forces without first calling Parliament together.

MR. TOMLINSON pointed out that when the Reserves were called out Parliament would have to be called together, and this was necessary because they would have to vote the money.

*MR. CHANNING said he had listened with much surprise to the reply of the Under Secretary for War. It seemed to him that the whole effect of that reply was to minimise the usefulness of the measure which was now before Parliament. He wished to speak seriously of these proposals, and it seemed to him that if this Bill meant anything at all it meant that the whole question of making the Volunteers a useful defensive force implied that they must treat them as a whole by some definite method, and not as mere machinery for obtaining recruits for the Regular Army at a time of emergency. That was not the way to treat them if the Volunteers were to be considered as a serious force for the defence of the country. The change in the words was undoubtedly a very serious one, for it placed power in the hands of the Ministry to call out the Volunteers upon a wholly different footing. To have the power of calling out 250,000 men absolutely at the disposal of the Ministry without any constitutional check such as they had under the Reserve Forces Act seemed to him to be illogical, inconsistent, and unconstitutional. If the Volunteers were to be called out simply for filling up the ranks of the Regular Army, why not say so? He disputed altogether the advisability of placing such a force without any constitutional check at the disposal of the Ministers of the Crown. This was a very serious constitutional question, and he must say that he did not think it had been disposed of by the arguments of the Under Secretary for War. If the hon. Gentleman considered that point and the vast importance of treating the Volunteers as an organised army for home defence, and not a mere feeding ground for the Regular Army, he would see that it was necessary that we should have some constitutional check with regard to this matter, such as was provided in the case of the Reserve forces.

*MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL (Stockton): I wish to interpose with a few words in support of this Amendment. I think this proposal is a very reasonable one, and one which ought to be accepted by the Government. The change in the words of the Act of 1863 in reference to the calling out of the Volunteers from "actual or apprehended invasion" to "imminent national danger or great emergency" is a great change, and one which the House of Commons is entitled, as the representatives of the people, to know the reason why. There is a remarkable change going on in public opinion in reference to the question of war, and upon the question whether Parliament has any control whatever over the declaration of war or over the policy of the Government. I have here a very eminent authority which I wish to quote, because in former years it was considered by some Members of the House that Parliament should have some knowledge or should be consulted before even a declaration of war took place. We all know that that is a power given to the Crown upon the advice of the Ministers, and Parliament is not even consulted when war is declared. In 1878 I find that when the Afghan War took place the Opposition at that time took a very strong line of action against that war, and the official section of the Liberal party put up Mr. Whitbread to move a resolution in condemnation of that war; and what do I find? I find in reading this debate† that no less an authority than the present Colonial Secretary moved an Amendment or put down an Amendment to that motion which was moved by Mr. Whitbread. It was quite in harmony with the Amendment now moved by the hon. Member for Leigh. We all know that the Colonial Secretary changes his views so often that to quote them will not have much influence with the House of Commons. The Amendment moved by the Colonial Secretary was—

> "That this House regrets that in the present instance the consent of the nation through its representatives in this House was not obtained before war was declared."

That was the Amendment moved by the Colonial Secretary to the official Amendment condemning the policy of the war which led up to the outbreak of war in Afghanistan in 1878. The official motion was not strong enough for the Colonial Secretary, and he put down this Amendment, which, I am sorry to say, was ruled out of order, but it showed the intention of the Colonial Secretary, and anyone who reads his speech will find that it was a strong condemnation of the Government for declaring war in 1878 without the consent of Parliament and without their knowledge. I think hon. Members are quite justified in asking that before the Volunteers are called out Parliament should be summoned, and that we should understand the policy of the Government. I thought it right to call attention to the remarkable declaration of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary in 1878, because what was his policy then in this matter should be his policy now. I strongly support my hon. friend.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) said the Government were applying to the Volunteer force the same conditions as were applied to the Militia and the Reserve forces. The wording was identical, and it was only rational for the outside observer to suppose that if these conditions were applied to what was the third line of defence, the same precautions would be adopted with regard to a force which would only be required on certain occasions of grave emergency. Since October the Reserves had been called out and the embodiment of the Militia had been enforced, and if during the recess circumstances arose which necessitated the calling up of the Volunteers it was not unreasonable to suggest that Parliament should insist upon the same precautions being taken with regard to them as had been taken with regard to the other forces. He could not see that that would unduly fetter the action of the Executive which the hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary was so jealous to guard.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 58; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 253.)

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Third Series], Vol. ccxlix., p. 176.

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Billson, Alfred
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Langley, Batty
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q'n'sC.
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Pickersgill, Edware Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Runciman Walter
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarsh.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tully, Jasper
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Scott, and Mr. Jonathan Samuel.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, Rt Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edwd. H Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Drage, Geoffrey
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning-(C'rn.
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Marks, Henry Hananel
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Middlemore, John T.
Monckton, Edward Philip
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donal Ninian
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR was not sanguine of obtaining more favourable consideration for his Amendment than had been accorded to the one which preceded it. Still, as the first clause of the Bill imposed greater obligations on the Volunteer force, and as it had always been the practice heretofore where obligations were increased to insert certain provisos, it was only right to insert one in this case. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'emergency,' to insert the words, 'provided always that nothing in this section shall apply without his consent to a man enrolled in any corps of Volunteers at the passing of this Act.' "—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WYNDHAM said he had urged, without success apparently, that this change laid no increased obligation upon the Volunteers. Of course it was a matter of opinion, but that was the opinion which he had formed. At the first blush there was a case for the Amendment, and he confessed that at one time he was in favour of some such provision as that proposed. The suggestion was, however, very carefully considered during the drafting of the Bill, and upon the whole it was felt that the objections to it outweighed the arguments in its favour. There was one fatal objection to the Amendment — namely, that it would divide, possibly for ten, fifteen, or eighteen years, the Volunteers into two sections.

Mr. C. P. SCOTT thought it was perfectly obvious, in spite of the remarks of the hon. Gentleman, that this change did increase the obligations of the Volunteer force. The whole difficulty might be got over by obtaining the consent of the men themselves, which would be obtained to the extent of ninety-nine out of every hundred. But to lay an increased obligation upon them without their consent was most reprehensible.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. WYNDHAM: In accordance with the promise I gave on a former occasion, I propose to move this Amendment. It was argued for some time in Committee that it would never do to enumerate all the places where Volunteers might be employed, and it would not do to attempt to define the exact type of Volunteer who might be employed. The Amendment I now move will, I think, meet the case.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the word 'time,' to insert the words 'for the purposes of coast defence.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN did not think the Amendment did actually all that was asked, but he confessed he could not suggest a better form.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

MILITARY LANDS BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. WYNDHAM: I propose to effect the object which we have been endeavouring to effect by this Bill by another method. I propose to omit the first three clauses, and on Report stage to bring up a clause which is not open to the objection which has been urged to Clause 1. I do not admit that the objection is well founded, but it will get rid of the difficulty in that way.

Mr. JONATHAN SAMUEL said the House was grateful to the hon. Gentleman for withdrawing these clauses, but he thought some declaration as to the new clause should be made. A large number of hon. Members who were present on the Second Reading might not be in the House on the Report stage, and if a compromise was about to be made some intimation of its nature ought to be given.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he thought the request of the hon. Member a reasonable one, but he hoped that the hon. Member would have taken it from him that in withdrawing those clauses he would not in the new clause reopen the discussion. The proposed new clause would provide that a council which had acquired land on behalf of a corps might lease it to the corps for a period of years, so as to give the corps security on which they might borrow money to erect butts, and erect the necessary buildings. Under the existing law the Volunteer corps could not borrow, because they had not a sufficient title to enable them to give that necessary security.

Mr. JONATHAN SAMUEL thought the suggestion was one which would not be objected to by any local authority. At the same time, he thought the time had arrived when the Government should take the matter into their own hands and provide these things at the cost of the State.

Mr. MAURICE HEALY desired to know why the new clause was not put on the Paper so that it might be discussed in the ordinary way, and also whether it was intended that it should be discussed when it came up upon the Report stage. Did the hon. Gentleman propose on that occasion to recommit the Bill in order to allow discussion?

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 negatived.

Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8:—

Question proposed, "That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. MAURICE HEALY said that on the Second Reading of the Bill he had endeavoured to explain to the House the circumstances under which the Ranges Act of 1891 became law. That Act recited that it was an Act to facilitate the acquisition of ranges for Volunteer corps and others. The Irish Members were perfectly justified in saying that it therefore should be limited to deal with the acquisition of ranges, and that consequently as Volunteers did not exist in Ireland no part of the Act should extend to Ireland. Members of the House were justified in assuming that a Ranges Act did not deal generally with the subject of military lands or the public defence, and it was not a fair proceeding on the part of the War Department to insert a clause which did not deal with ranges or Volunteers at all. His objection was not a technical one, because, under the Military Lands Act of 1842, it was provided that when the Crown proceeded to take up the land of a subject for the purposes of defence the amount of compensation was to be assessed by a jury of his countrymen, and an elaborate procedure was set up by which the jury should fix the compensation. When Parliament returned to the subject in 1860 with a further Act for the defence of the realm, it was again repeated that whenever a difference arose between the Crown and a subject, the owner of the land to be taken should have the right of having the amount of compensation to be given decided by a jury. But in the Ranges Act of 1891 Section 11 provided for the first time that when land was acquired, not for Volunteers or ranges, but for the public defence, the Crown should have the right of depriving the subject of having a jury to fix the compensation due to him, and compelling him to resort to arbitration. That might be very good for England, where they could get thirty-five to forty-five years rental as compensation from the arbitrators; but he was sorry to say that when lands were taken from them in Ireland they could not calculate on any such fabulous sums being given as compensation. On the contrary, in some cases the scale of compensation was assessed at less than twenty-five years purchase. He was told that the Ranges Act had been repealed in 1892. Yes, every word of it had been repealed except Clause 11. That clause had been surreptitiously retained by the War Office, who wanted to deprive the people of Ireland of their land without just compensation.

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and the powers and provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, are being used for the purpose, the amount of compensation shall in all cases be settled by a jury in like manner as in the said last-mentioned Act provided."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. WYNDHAM said that the hon. Member for Cork had invited him to discuss the merits of a clause passed by the House of Commons in 1891. He alleged, quite truly, that, in 1892, an Act was passed which repealed the whole of the Ranges Act of 1891, with the exception of Section 11. But the Act of 1892 was a consolidating Act, brought in as such by Mr. Stanhope, and welcomed as such by Mr. Shaw Lefevre. Therefore, he ventured to say it was not a reasonable proposition on the part of the hon. Member to reopen a discussion with regard to the purchase of land for military purposes which was closed by the Act of 1892; and it was all the more unreasonable as the Bill now before the Committee was not a Purchase Bill at all. The powers under the Military Lands Act were not so drastic as those under the Defences Act. When the Government in order to meet the convenience of the House had abandoned some of the clauses of this Bill the hon. Member was not justified in reopening a discussion closed long ago.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that the abandonment of two or three clauses of the Bill by the hon. Gentleman on behalf of the Government could not have the slightest effect on his mind. He was pleased to see that the hon. Gentleman had offered no defence whatever for the shameful transaction of the War Office in retaining that clause of the Act of 1891 in the Act of 1892; he would not have been a party to the nefarious proceeding. It surely could excite no surprise on his part that, having been tricked in 1892 by this extraordinary proceeding of the War Department, Irish Members should take the first opportunity that occurred to raise this question in debate. The hon. Gentleman said that the Act of 1892 was a consolidating Act, that the Members of the House generally were very delighted at its introduction, and that they ought not to reopen discussion upon it. But he ventured to say that not 1 per cent. of the Members of the House knew or cared what was being done by the Act of 1891. The proportion of Members interested in military lands was lamentably small, and to say that they were all panting to have a codifying Act in 1892 was a delusion. The theory of codification would not hold water for a moment. The process of codification was the embodiment into one Act of a series of Acts. But the Act of 1892 was not a codifying Act, otherwise it would have embodied the Act of 1860. The Act of 1892 was limited to a very small fraction of a very large subject. At least, the whole code of the Defence Acts, which still disfigured the Statute-book, made it a burden of a most serious kind to any unfortunate legal practitioner to advise on this subject. He had had some proceedings under them, and had had to transport dozens of volumes all over Ireland in order to make the arbitrators understand the law and procedure. The Act of 1892 was not a codifying Act; it went a small way in the direction of codification, but carefully omitted out of its purview this question of Section 11 of the Act of 1891. He was therefore entitled to ask the Government to address themselves to this question as to whether when the lands of an individual were being taken by the Crown for public purposes the man ought not to have the right to have his compensation fixed by a jury. The hon. Gentleman avoided that question. He had drawn attention to the fact that that right was given to the subject in 1842 and again in 1860, and that it was not till 1891 that it entered the heads of the War Office to say that the Crown had the right of taking away a man's property without a constitutional appeal to a jury, and they did that not in an open above-board fashion but by a trick. I am sorry that I should have to raise this matter at a time which is not very convenient to Members of the House generally, but the hon. Member opposite cannot complain of the action of the Irish Members who are availing themselves of the first opportunity they have had of exposing a transaction of this kind.

MR. JASPER MORE (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that it was very interesting to see the hon. Member coming forward in that House as the apologist of Irish landowners.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: The hon. Member opposite is under the impression that the only persons who have an interest in Irish land are Irish landlords. I assure him that he is quite mistaken, and I do not for a moment raise this question for the benefit of Irish landlords. I would be very sorry to have land taken from a landlord without fair and proper compensation, but I beg to inform the hon. Gentleman that the person in whom I am interested and for whose protection I have raised this discussion to-night is not the Irish landlord but the Irish tenant. While the Irish landlord can fairly calculate on getting substantial justice on a transaction of this kind, I am sorry to say that the Irish tenant has no such protection, and when he appeals to a jury he cannot calculate on that generous justice which is meted out to Cabinet Ministers and others when their land is taken from them.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. MAURICE HEALY, in moving a new clause as to the way in which the costs in connection with legal proceedings should be paid, said: I am not competent to say whether the matter referred to in this clause is a grievance existing in England as it unquestionably exists in Ireland, but I apprehend that it is a grievance common to the two countries. I do not think that any man who considers the matter fairly can come to any other conclusion than that there is a substantial grievance to be deal with. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not meet this Amendment as he did the last, by stating that this Bill does not deal with the subject of land purchase. This measure is entitled "An Act to amend the Military Lands Act, 1892," and the hon. Member has described that Act as a codifying Act, and therefore, in his view, it covers the whole field of the acquisition of military lands. I raise to-night a question which, no doubt, does not directly arise out of any clause in this Act, but which is certainly covered by the title of the Act, and which, it certainly cannot be denied, is a proper subject for consideration when any topic connected with land is being discussed. When a railway company or any public undertaking of that kind goes to law with a private individual to enforce a process of compulsory purchase, that undertaking goes to law with the risks as to costs of an ordinary litigant. If he is beaten in the litigation he is beaten at the peril of costs to himself. On the contrary, when the Crown goes to law, acting in what they conceive to be the public interest, if you can succeed in satisfying the court that they are proceeding against you in a legal manner, you are met with the legal doctrine that Her Majesty's judges have no power to give costs against the Crown, and you have the luxury of defraying out of your own pocket the costs of a litigation in which you have succeeded. If there is one litigant who ought not to escape costs it is the Crown, which has the whole resources of the Empire at its back. Some authorities on jurisprudence are of opinion that the State should bear the costs of all litigants, and that no one who litigates on a question of law should be at any expense in doing it. Parliament has never accepted that doctrine as regards litigation generally, and the law is that if people take the risks of litigation they must pay the costs if they are beaten. Is there any reason why the Crown should be exempted from that doctrine? I will tell the right hon. Gentleman of a particular case. It was the case of the Belhaven land. The Attorney General for Ireland is familiar with the litigation connected with it. It entered into the heads of the Crown that it would be a proper thing to take away the land of the tenants, and have the compensation assessed by two resident magistrates. I ventured to question that procedure in a court of law. I am bound to say that the resident magistrates promptly decided that the Crown were erroneous in their procedure. The Irish Attorney General took me into the Queen's Bench for the purpose of compelling those magistrates to hear the cases. I met him in the Queen's Bench, and the judges there decided that the Crown were not entitled to take the cases in that way. Having decided in my favour after a long and elaborate argument, the court could not give costs against the Crown, and it was held that I should bear the costs out of my own pocket. The Crown, acting on a representation from the court, paid me my costs. That is what I would expect from the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland, whom I have never known do anything but what was perfectly fair. I submit that when the Crown is defeated in litigation of that kind it should bear the costs.

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes, either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and also where any legal proceedings are taken in connection with or arising out of such proceedings, the Secretary of State or other person or authority acquiring the land or taking such proceedings shall be subject to the same liability to pay costs in connection with such proceedings as any person or authority acquiring lands under the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts relating to the purchase and taking of lands otherwise than by agreement."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member has again invited me to defend the Defence Acts. For the purpose of putting my position to the Committee, all I need say is that the Bill before us is a Bill to amend the Military Lands Act, 1892, and not one to amend the Defence Acts. Under the powers conferred by the Defence Acts lands can be taken and the price settled afterwards. They are drastic powers which enable the Government to take land if necessary for the purposes of emergency. These Acts are not before us. With all deference to the hon. Member, I will not undertake the task of disproving that the Defence Acts need amendment. In my opinion they are very valuable Acts, but we are not now discussing them. My point is that this is not a convenient opportunity for opening a discussion on the Defence Acts, with which the Bill we are discussing has nothing to do.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said the hon. Gentleman failed to realise that both the Defence Acts and the Military Lands Act only partially protected the person whose property was being taken away. It might be said that he was magnifying the importance of one particular set of cases in which lands were taken compulsorily. He assured the Committee that that was not so. The very contrary was the fact. In nearly every case in which lands had been taken compulsorily in recent years it had been necessary to resort to the ordinary legal tribunals to litigate some point. When an emergency of that kind arose, and when a subject was dragged into court by the Crown to litigate his rights, he ought to be indemnified against the costs of the litigation when he succeeded.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. MAURICE HEALY moved a clause providing that the justice determining compensation should not be a resident magistrate. He asked the Chief Secretary to embody this provision in the Bill, as it only asked that when the Crown were taking land they should not have the right to assess compensation by their own paid magistrates. He did not wish to make any attack upon resident magistrates generally. He wished to discuss the question in an entirely impersonal way, but, seeing that their position was dependent on the will of the Crown, they would not be free in exercising their judgment. How was it that such a monstrosity ever came to be embodied in this Code? When the Defence Acts were passed originally there was no idea whatever that compensation should ever be assessed by magistrates. It was twenty or thirty years after—he thought in the Act of 1860—that a clause was inserted giving the Crown the right to proceed under the Lands Clauses Act.

New clause—

"Where proceedings are or have been taken to acquire land for military purposes, either under the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, or under any other Act, and the powers and provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, are being used for the purpose, neither of the justices determining the compensation pursuant to the 121st Section of the last-mentioned Act shall be a resident magistrate appointed in pursuance of the Constabulary (Ireland) Act, 1836."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM said this new clause and the others which had been moved by the hon. Member were tantamount to amending the Defence Acts, 1842 to 1873, and the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, and this was not the time for discussing such a question. There was no land purchase provision in the Bill now before the House, and that being so, he asked the hon. Member not to regard him as disrespectful if he declined to argue the question on its merits. This was not the moment to go into the merits of the question raised, and if the hon. Member wished to do so, he must take another opportunity in another session.

Question put, and negatived.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I do not know whether the Chief Secretary is prepared to make an announcement which will do away at once with my opposition to this measure, that he will consent to leave out the last sub-section, which proposes to enact the renewal of the Peace Preservation Act. If the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to make that announcement, the Bill, so far as I am concerned, will go through without any further discussion. I assume from the silence of the right hon. Gentleman his refusal to grant that request, and I have nothing to do but to proceed with my opposition to this Bill. This is a measure for the purpose of continuing laws which were enacted for a certain limited period of time, and which will expire if this Bill be not passed into law. I understand that the principle of this Expiring Laws Continuance Bill is that it simply provides for the prolongation of measures of a more or less non-contentious and what is called practical character, and that it is not a measure to be used for the purpose of continuing practically without discussion any measures which are of a strongly contentious and highly important character. I therefore hold, or at least I would strongly urge, that the Government are departing from the natural and real character of this particular measure by introducing into it the continuation of the Peace Preservation Acts of 1881 and 1886. Everybody knows—I do not enlarge on the point—that these Acts deal with what are the fundamental liberties of the subject of this realm, because, after all, the right to bear arms——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is aware that it is not in order to discuss any particular Bill contained in the schedule on the Second Reading. That must be done on a motion to strike such Bill out of the schedule when the Bill is in Committee. Otherwise there might be forty or fifty discussions on as many Bills on the motion for the Second Reading.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I meant to address myself simply in general terms to the character of one of the measures, without going into details. Of course, I quite appreciate that it would be entirely out of order to discuss the details, but I think I would be in order in referring in general terms to the character of some of the measures included in this Bill, and contending that these measures are not of the class which should be dealt with in this particular form. It was to that point, and that point only, that I meant to limit my observations; but, perhaps, my remarks led you to the conclusion that I was going to enter into the merits or details of a particular measure. I have no such intention. I simply wish to describe in general terms measures of a character which ought not to be in a Bill of this kind.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is proposing to discuss a measure on the ground that it ought not to be in the schedule. I am afraid the hon. Member would not be in order in taking that course.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: That is your ruling, and, of course, I submit. I must at present confine myself to the general observation that I think the Government are treating the people of Ireland rather shabbily in trying to push a Bill of this kind in this particular form. I beg to give notice that I shall discuss the character of the Bill and move an Amendment with respect to this particular measure when we reach the Committee stage.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) supported his hon. friend in objecting to the unfair and exceptional treatment of Ireland by this measure. It was proposed to re-enact expiring laws with regard to Ireland, which would not be tolerated for a single moment with regard to England and Scotland. He would, when the right time came, support his hon. friend in asking the House to strike out the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Acts from the list of measures proposed to be continued.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 254.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beckett, Ernest William
Bigwood, James

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles,T.Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J Austen(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colville, John
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Curzon, Viscount
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Man'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs,Hn.AGH (CityofLond.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hamilton,RtHon.LordGeorge
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawrence,SirE Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, EvanH. (Somerset)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Marks, Henry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Monckton, Edward Philip
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlingt'n
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson,SirThos.(Hartlep')
Ridley,Rt.Hon.SirMatthewW
Ritchie,Rt.Hon.Chas.Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sidebottom,William(Derbysh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith,Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hon.JohnLloyd
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N. E.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Horniman, Frederick John
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell,DrM A(Queen'sC
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
Moss, Samuel
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tully, Jasper
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill read the third time and passed.

MONEY-LENDING BILL [Lords].

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

MR. MARKS said he desired to move a new clause, which was as follows—

> "No company limited by shares, and registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1898, shall carry on the business of a money-lender."

The reason for the Bill was the necessity for revealing at all stages of the business the identity of a money-lender. It had been urged that most of the evils which arose from money-lending might be mitigated, if not entirely cured, if the money-lender were under an obligation to deal exclusively in his own name, and at all stages of the business to disclose his identity in a plain, unmistakable manner. The advantages which would accrue if such a system were in force were obvious. In the first place a money-lender trading in his own name would be so to speak under a bond for his own good behaviour. If he committed an act of dishonesty or treachery he would be practically cutting himself off from all future business, and any misconduct on his part and any litigation in which he was engaged would be before the public, and any penalty the law enforced against him would practically mean the loss of the goodwill of his business. It was within the recollection of all familiar with recent money-lending scandals, that one of the greatest evils connected with the business was the practice of a money-lender lending in an assumed name, afterwards approaching the borrower in another assumed name, and continuing the transaction in a third assumed name. A money-lender trading in his own name could not do any of these things, and therefore it would be an important safeguard if his identity should be disclosed. The question was, did the Bill sufficiently insure that disclosure. There was a provision in the Bill that a money-lender should register himself in his own or his usual trade name, and that he should do business in that name, and in that name only; that he should take securities in that name and that name only, and that if he took securities under any other name it should be competent for the courts to set aside the transaction. Therefore, every inducement was set before the money-lender to trade in his own name. But there was no provision in the Bill to prevent a money lender from registering himself as a limited liability company. If he registered himself as "A Banking Company" or "B Bank" that would be his usual trade name, and he would be justified in trading in it, and if the money-lender avails himself of the Limited Liability Acts, it would be practically impossible not only to disclose, but even to discover his identity. The money-lender had only to secure a solicitor and seven signatories to the Memorandum of Association to become a limited company, with all the powers of a limited company behind him. It might be only a one-man company, but whether that was so or not, it was a limited company protected by the Limited Liability Acts. Having issued his seven shares, nothing could prevent him from taking blank transfers of them back into his own name or the name of a nominee, and the bulk of the shares might be issued as bearer shares. Under such circumstances what power would enable the court to get at the person who was really engaged in money-lending? It might be said that the money-lender must have capital, but even that was not always required. A one-man company was formed, seven shares were issued to the signatories, and the balance of the shares might be issued to bearer and be in the hands of some nominee, and the money-lender might then proceed to lend money on debentures. The company would have no money at all, and if it were sued no penalty could be recovered, because there would be no capital to draw from. A man in such a position could, it was quite clear, set the fundamental provisions of the Bill at nought. The remedy might be a drastic one, but it was the only remedy. The Government admitted that the only way to put an end to the evils of money-lending was to compel the money-lender to disclose his identity. He had shown that if the money-lender registered himself as a limited liability company, he could not be compelled to disclose his identity. The new clause now proposed would enable the courts to compel the money-lender to disclose his identity. Would the Government accept the clause and give effect to their own professed intention, or would they refuse the clause and admit that the Bill could not accomplish its avowed object?

New clause—

"No company limited by shares, and registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1898, shall carry on the business of a money-lender."—(*Mr. Marks.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the House would not accept the new clause. He agreed with what his hon. friend had said about the evils of one-man companies, which, however, were not confined to companies engaged in the business of money-lending. What they were endeavouring to secure by the Bill was that the identity of the person or the company carrying on money-lending business should be known. The hon. Member had described the clause as drastic. He thought it was the most drastic ever proposed, because it provided that no company, whether in existence at the present time or to be formed in the future, should carry on the business of money-lending. Was there ever such wholesale confiscation? There were many perfectly respectable companies carrying on the business of money-lending, and occupying good positions.

MR. MARKS said that the companies to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred would not come within the Bill.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was not sure of that. The proposal of his hon. friend was that all companies should have the right taken away from them of carrying on the business of money-lending. Why should not companies properly formed be allowed to carry on such business as long as proper securities were taken against abuse? Why should it be said arbitrarily that a particular branch of business, perfectly legitimate in its way if respectably conducted, and most useful to the poorer classes of the community, should not be carried on by a joint stock company the identity of which would be thoroughly well known?

Question put, and negatived.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) said he hoped the Attorney General would see his way to accept the clause he now proposed to move, inasmuch as it would reduce the possibility of abuse. The object of the clause was to prevent any money-lender who had made a loan from increasing the rate of interest if the loan were renewed. The borrower was in a fair position to make a bargain in the first instance, but when he went to have the loan renewed he was practically in the power of the money-lender. Cases had been known where a man had borrowed £100, had paid back £120 and then owed £150, and such cases had arisen because the money-lender charged an exorbitant rate of interest on each renewal. He thought it would prevent many borrowers from becoming the victims of harsh and unconscionable money-lenders if the money-lenders were not permitted to raise the rate of interest on the renewal of the loan.

New clause—

"Should the borrower be unable to repay the principal of the loan, and the interest agreed upon at the specified date, and come to the money-lender for a renewal of the loan, the money-lender shall not be allowed to charge a higher rate of interest upon renewal than the rate agreed upon when the loan was first made."—(*Mr. Beckett.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the House would not accept the clause. They had been very careful in avoiding everything that had the appearance of fixing by law the rate of interest, and now his hon. friend calmly asked the House to provide that a money-lender should never charge more than he had charged in the first instance.

MR. BECKETT asked leave to withdraw the clause.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out 'this Act comes into operation,' and insert 'the commencement of this Act.'"

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON said the House would remember that the Bill provided that judicial discretion should be conferred upon judges of the High Court, and also of the inferior courts, to set aside a money-lending contract if the transaction were harsh and unconscionable, and to substitute a judicial contract. He did not propose to disturb the first part of the two-fold provision, but he submitted that if a judge were to be given discretion to set aside a contract if he considered that the charges were excessive, and if he found certain other elements present in the transaction, it was most important that the conditions should be very carefully defined under which any judicial tribunal should be given such an extraordinary and novel power. He should like, in the interests of our system of law, to make a protest against the dangerous novelty of such a power being for the first time conferred upon our tribunals. The Bill sought to carry judicial discretion into the domain of legal principle. It was a precedent of most evil omen, and if Conservative legislation of the next century were to follow the lines indicated in the Bill it was difficult to discern where it would stop. The sanctity of contract was altogether ignored, and the fact that a bargain was made between persons quite capable of forming a judgment for themselves was dismissed, and the judge was empowered to substitute for that contract another contract which he thought better. He should like to follow for a moment the line of argument on which such a provision was founded. The amount charged for the loan was excessive; an excessive charge for a loan was a harsh transaction, a harsh transaction was unconscionable in its action, and, therefore, ought to be set aside. Apply that analogy to a contract of tenancy. The rent charged was excessive; to charge an excessive rent was a harsh transaction, a harsh transaction was unconscionable in its action, and therefore the transaction should be set aside. He was astonished that the Government should, with such a light heart, have imported into a measure of such small utility a principle so dangerous in its essence and so liable to be extended in unexpected directions. Of course, he was aware that some question might arise as to the meaning of the expression "harsh and unconscionable." The only light passed on its meaning was thrown by the First Lord of the Treasury, who said that "harsh and unconscionable" simply meant that county court judges should have the power which was formerly exercised by courts of equity. If that were so, why should it not be plainly stated in the Bill? Why should such an inexplicable expression as "harsh and unconscionable" be used instead of enacting in plain terms that all tribunals called upon to administer judicial functions in connection with the Act should be clothed with the jurisdiction appertaining to courts of equity? Such a construction would not, however, be adopted by the Attorney General, because if it could be shown that the courts already had that jurisdiction the whole argument would fall to the ground. That they had such a jurisdiction already was perfectly clear. The High Court and County Courts, by Section 89 of the Judicature Act of 1873, could grant relief from any bargain on the same equitable principles as were applied by courts of equity in ancient times. Therefore, the provision, except in so far as it framed procedure, was not in the least required, and the use of such an inexplicable expression would only lead to confusion. If it was not applicable to the case, the question arose whether they ought not in this measure to indicate what were the conditions on which the county court judge might act. He submitted that in any view some definition was needed, whether the principles were equitable or not in their character, and that it was most desirable that the county court judges, who would have largely to administer this Act, should have some assistance and some definition of principle. It was not easy to do so by means of a simple clause, but he had endeavoured to do so in the Amendment he had submitted. He would call attention to the terms of the Amendment. In the first place, where a county court judge was satisfied on inquiry that the loan was induced by fraud or deceit, he might set it aside as onerous. Then if he found that the borrower had not full knowledge and comprehension of the terms of the loan and of all the facts material to the transaction, he might say that on these grounds the borrower had not his eyes open, and was not on equal terms with the lender, and he might review the transaction. In the third place, where the borrower was, to the knowledge of the money-lender, effecting the loan secretly, or was desirous of concealing the same or the circumstances connected therewith from some person, the county court judge should have the power to re-open the transaction. Supposing the money-lender was appealed to by some person who had committed a theft, and that the money to be borrowed was to replace the money stolen, it was obvious that the lender and the borrower were not on equal terms. And so, if the money was borrowed by some person with a view to conceal some disgraceful transaction, or to conceal the loan from his trustees, that placed him at the mercy of the lender, and if this inequality in the relationship of the parties to the contract was established it was a clear case for re-opening the transaction. Lastly, in a case where the borrower was, to the knowledge of the money-lender, by reason of age, inexperience, ignorance of business, or mental or physical or moral infirmity, acting at a disadvantage in negotiating the loan—if they had a sharp man of the world on the one hand, and on the other an improvident and ignorant youth, who was an easy prey to the arts of the money-lender—pressure on the one hand and an easy victim on the other—obviously these were conditions under which the terms of the bargain ought not to be upheld. It might be said that in all these cases the transactions were "harsh and unconscionable." If that was so, why not substitute a definite and intelligible definition of what was "harsh and unconscionable"? If "harsh and unconsionable" in the Bill meant that which he suggested, why not insert the explanation and delete those words? If it meant something else there was no doubt whatever that the discretion which might be employed by the county court judge would be carried into the domain of legal principle. The Amendment proposed in Committee upstairs to allow an appeal had not been inserted. The effect of that omission would be that in each county court district the law would vary according to the views of the judge. One judge would decide that these transactions were harsh and unconscionable, and ought not be enforced; and another judge would in every case insist that they should be enforced. In point of fact, the money-lenders would disappear from certain districts where the views of the judge were strict, and frequent the districts where the views of the judge were lax. He invited the Government to make some effort to narrow the use of the vague expression, "harsh and unconscionable."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the words, 'the transaction is harsh and unconscionable,' and insert the words, '(*a*) the loan was induced by fraud or deceit; or (*b*) the borrower had not full knowledge and comprehension of the terms of the loan and of all facts material to the transaction; or (*c*) the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender effecting the said loan secretly, or was desirous of concealing the same or the circumstances connected therewith from some person; or (*d*) the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender by reason of age, inexperience, ignorance of business, or mental, physical, or moral infirmity, acting at a disadvantage in negotiating the said loan,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said there was one thing which his hon. and learned friend had said which did not surprise him, and that was that he was not enamoured with the wording of his own clause. He confessed that his hon. friend was quite right in regarding his own clause with feelings of great coldness, which on closer acquaintance might ripen into a freezing dislike. Having deprecated the novelty in the Bill, he proceeded to propose a startling novelty of his own, which would be most mischievous. His hon. and learned friend said that the jurisdiction of the county courts to set aside contracts as "harsh and unconscionable" was unknown. Had he never heard of the equitable jurisdiction of the courts of equity in respect of such contracts, and might not that jurisdiction be beneficially exercised in the county courts?

MR. LAWSON WALTON asked if the Attorney General meant to say that the ancient jurisdiction of the courts of equity was to be extended to the county courts? If so, he would withdraw his Amendment if that were inserted in the Bill.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the jurisdiction enjoyed by the courts of equity was closely analogous to that with which this section intended to clothe the county courts. His hon. and learned friend said that was unnecessary, because the county courts already enjoyed that jurisdiction under the Judicature Act.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said his hon. and learned friend, if he looked into the matter, would find that, by the Judicature Act of 1873, the county courts now enjoyed the jurisdiction of the equity courts.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was reluctant to continue a technical argument of this kind. If any jurisdiction had not been exercised by the county courts, it would be for the reason that they did not possess it. The equitable jurisdiction with which the county courts had been clothed had been confined to certain specific matters, but not among them to this question of what was "harsh and unconscionable." What were the proposals of the hon. and learned Gentleman? The first was that where the loan was induced by fraud or deceit. But every court of equity would set aside a bargain induced by deceit, and if induced by fraud it would be set aside at once. The next proposal was that the county court judge was to have jurisdiction to reopen the transaction if the borrower had not full knowledge and comprehension of the terms of the loan and of all facts material to the transaction. But that was precisely one of the elements with which the county court judge would have to deal. Then the third proposal was that if the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender effecting the loan secretly, or was desirous of concealing the same, or the circumstances connected therewith from some person. But suppose a man of mature years was desirous of raising a loan and anxious not to communicate the fact to his wife, that clause would give a ground for setting it aside. Again the hon. and learned Gentleman proposed that if the borrower was to the knowledge of the money-lender, by reason of age, inexperience, ignorance of business, or mental, physical, or moral infirmity, acting at a disadvantage in negotiating a loan, the bargain might be reopened or set aside. But he would point out that a good many of the matters so painfully enumerated in that proposal were matters which could be considered by any court exercising equitable jurisdiction. It was in the last degree inadvisable to define such terms as were contained in the Amendment. It had been said by a great judge that the courts of equity had been rather careful not to define exactly what their powers were, because to do so would be to give directions to those who were desirous of evading their jurisdiction. His hon. and learned friend said that there should be an appeal, but the general law gave an appeal in matters over £20. He hoped that the picture which his hon. and learned friend had drawn as to different systems of equity being administered in county courts was too highly charged and would not represent the true state of things.

MR. LABOUCHERE said he hoped they would not have many more of these essays on law. It was already past twelve o'clock. The Bill was really a good one, although it might be made better; but time was an element in making the Bill good or bad. He had come there that evening as a humble follower of the Financial Secretary of the Local Government Board—or whatever his official title might be—and he was going to vote for the words "hard and unconscionable," simply because they happened to be in the Bill. His hon. and learned friend differed from the hon. and learned Attorney General; but it was always the case with these lawyers that they never could agree with one another. The difference between his hon. and learned friend and the Government as to the interpretation of "harsh and unconscionable" was the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee, and did not strike at the principle of the Bill, and as it was now after twelve o'clock he hoped they would come to a division.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said the hon. Member who talked about essays on law in regard to this Bill forgot that they were altering the law, and were bound to take care that these alterations were for the people's advantage. The Bill came down from the House of Lords in March, and might very easily have been sent to the Standing Committee on Law soon after, instead of not till the month of July. It was the duty of the House, no matter however long they had to sit, not to pass the Bill without discussion. He did not altogether like the Amendment proposed by his hon. and gallant friend, but it was a great deal better than the words in the Bill. However clever the debating speech of the Attorney General might be there was this broad fact, that everything was to be left to the discretion of the county court judge; he was not to be bound by any previous decision, even of the courts of equity. He was given the power to exercise his own fatherly or grandfatherly discretion, and to say, "In my opinion this transaction is harsh and unconscionable, and I will set it aside." The Amendment tried to state the grounds on which the judge might hold that the bargain was "harsh and unconscionable." The courts of equity were bound by a series of decisions which had been given in the courts for the last 300 or 400 years. It was said that there was an appeal, but it was an appeal only on the law and not on the fact. The judge might say, "I hold as a matter of fact that the bargain is harsh and unconscionable," and there would be no appeal. Although he thought the Amendment could be very much improved if it became a substantive motion, he would support it.

MR. H. S. FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) thought that this Amendment raised such important considerations in regard to the principal provisions of the Bill that the House would not be wasting time if it spent the whole evening in its consideration. They were now at a quarter past twelve considering the Bill, and every hon. Member was practically requested to sit down as soon as he possibly could. By that means the Bill might be passed, but he doubted whether it would conduce to good legislation. The work was being scamped, and scamped work was work always badly done. The Amendment was to omit from the clause the very unusual words "harsh and unconscionable." The clause proposed to put on Her Majesty's judges the onus of saying whether a particular bargain was in their opinion a "harsh" bargain, whatever that might mean. The law could already deal with a bargain in which one party had the advantage of the other, or in which one party, by means of his position, had exercised duress on the other. But in future, if the Act passed, one party might question a bargain not on the ground that he was misled or that he did not know what he was doing when he entered into it, but on the ground that on reconsideration he considered the bargain a harsh one, and he might appeal to Her Majesty's judges to pronounce the opinion *ex post facto* that the bargain was a harsh one. It was seriously proposed that in future the duty should be cast upon judges of saying that a bargain was harsh and ought to be modified. Although they were dealing with a class against whom it was easy to excite prejudice and who had very few advocates in the House or out of it, he ventured to say that if such a provision was sanctioned it would be absolutely impossible to carry on the business of money-lending. Why should not Parliament also deal with persons dealing in other commodities? The money-lender dealt in money and had to deal in the open market, and doubtless he made the best use he could of his commodity. But what right had Parliament to pick out one particular class of trader and say that its bargains—not only the bargains of the fraudulent money-lender but of the class generally—should be revised by the courts? If such a provision were passed it would be impossible to stop with the present Bill. There were hundreds of transactions known to every Member of the House in which the profits far exceeded the profits connected with money-lending. Was it proposed to inquire whether traders had entered into "harsh and unconscionable" bargains because they sold goods at a price far in excess of the price to which the goods had fallen when the payment fell due? Everyone connected with business knew that the sanctity of contract was the mainstay of commerce, and were bargains to be revised simply because they turned out to be unprofitable, and were they to be made to appear harsh for one party to enforce because values had fallen? They were now imposing on the judges of the land the duty of revising contracts apart altogether from fraud or deceit. That was a very serious and a very dangerous departure which he for one would deprecate. He did not think there was any justification for the clause. The Attorney General himself had admitted that the majority of the money-lending class were respectable men, and therefore he supposed that a money-lender was entitled to justice. In his opinion, in passing this clause the House was embarking on a very dangerous course.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question before the House is not the clause, but the question whether the words "harsh and unconscionable" should be left out and other words substituted.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he would endeavour to follow the ruling of the Chair. It was his intention to confine himself to the actual Amendment, but he was endeavouring to show that if the words remained in the Bill the result would be that a contract which had been entered into by two parties within their rights, and well aware of what they were bargaining for, would be subject to revision, and that injustice would thereby be inflicted on one class of Her Majesty's subjects. He was endeavouring to plead for justice for the money-lender. He hoped that the Amendment of the hon. and learned Gentleman would be supported, although he supposed it was hopeless to expect it would be carried, because the Government desired to make the matter a question of confidence in themselves. But that did not absolve him from the duty of calling attention to what he considered the most unreasonable, dangerous, and unjust proposal contained in the clause.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 255.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher John George
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manch'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E Durning- (Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macaleese, Daniel
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
M'Killop, James
Marks, Henry Hananel
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Monckton, Edward Philip
More, Robt J. (Shropshire)
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
Ridley, Rt Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seeley, Charles Hilton
Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Ure, Alexander
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, Rt Hon Herbert Henry
Beckett, Ernest William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q'n's. C.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Malley, William
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (M'rthyr
Tully, Jasper

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lawson Walton and
Mr. Billson.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON said he proposed to move as an Amendment that after the words "harsh and unconscionable" there should be inserted the words "and was entered into under circumstances in which courts of equity would give relief." It was, he said, now clear that the words "harsh and unconscionable" were not intended to confer jurisdiction, but only that every county court should administer the jurisdiction of a court in equity. When that ambiguity was cleared away the Bill might have an intelligible form given to it, and instead of depending on a vague inquiry which was bounded only by the collective judicial conscience of fifty-six county court judges, they might have certain definite principles with which they were quite familiar to guide them.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after the word 'unconscionable,' to insert the words 'and was entered into under circumstances in which the courts of equity would give relief.'"—(*Mr Lawson Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said there was not the same objection to this as to the last Amendment; but he would suggest that the form of the words should be "or is otherwise such that the courts of equity would give relief."

*MR. LAWSON WALTON said he would accept the Attorney General's Amendment and withdraw his own.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. H. S. FOSTER was glad that the Government had recognised the principle contended for; and the concession was an important one. He took it that the words of the Attorney General's Amendment would really govern the words "harsh and unconscionable."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) welcomed the Amendment as he now understood it to mean that it was desirable to give to the county courts every conceivable jurisdiction of the courts of equity in reopening transactions. He had doubted whether the word "unconscionable" had all the significance which the Attorney General had attached to it, and the new words would meet any shortcomings if the words previously used were not wide enough.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY'S Amendment was agreed to.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said the object of the Amendment he now moved was to identify the account as the account which was being dealt with in respect of the transaction to be reopened. There was an impression that the clause proposed not only to confer power to reopen the particular account which was the subject of the litigation, but also to reopen any previous account.

Mr. Lawson Walton.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, after the word 'any,' to insert the word 'such.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'such' be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Amendment was quite unnecessary.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he desired to move an Amendment the object of which was that if the plaintiff or borrower applied for relief the courts should be empowered to set off any sums due by him to the money lender in respect of some other transaction against any award of the courts. When the matter was discussed in Committee it appeared to be accepted that there would be a set-off, but grave doubt was expressed as to whether that would be so, and he therefore moved his Amendment which expressly provided for it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'it,' to insert the words, 'subject to any other sum which the Court may find due from the debtor, and which sum shall be allowed as a set-off.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he was not a lawyer, but it was perfectly clear to him that when an account was taken between the parties any judge would allow a set-off.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said he was a lawyer, but he would not profess to give an opinion on the subject, especially as lawyers belonging to what was called the higher branch of the profession differed regarding it. Everyone knew that when a judge ordered a defendant to pay a sum of money, the defendant could not set up against that judgment that the plaintiff owed him money. He could not understand the objection to the Amendment, which would only make certain that which the Secretary to the Local Government Board declared to be clear, but which in the opinion of lawyers was not so.

MR. TOMLINSON said it seemed to him that the words were necessary in order to secure that there should be a set-off.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 5; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 256.)

AYES.

Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Harry Foster and Mr. Sydney Gedge.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt Hon Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Billson, Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colville, John
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Crilly, Daniel
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumberl'd
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macaleese, Daniel
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim
M'Killop, James
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, C. J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thornton, Percy M.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunt'n
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby), in explaining the next Amendment, said that it seemed to him that the clause as it stood was very much too extensive for reopening an account. As he understood it, it might be that the transaction had been closed for ten or fifteen years and a new transaction entered into; and if that new transaction came up for litigation the original transaction might be reopened. That appeared to him to be altogether a mistake.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'lent,' to insert the words 'Provided that nothing in this section shall authorise the reopening of any statement, settlement of account, or any agreement unless within two years of the date of the transaction complained of.'"—(*Mr. Lawrence.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment. Some of the worst cases were those in which by new transactions the account went on rolling bigger and bigger.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WARR (Liverpool, East Toxteth), in proposing the next Amendment, said he attached the greatest possible importance to Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, but he submitted that it would be ineffective unless the borrower or surety was able to make application to the court, whether the loan was mature or not. When a borrower came to consult his friends and they desired to come to some arrangement, but found that the loan would not mature for a considerable time, it would be monstrous that the extortionate interest should keep on running until the loan matured.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after 'lent,' to insert, 'And the court shall have power, notwithstanding any provision or agreement to the contrary, to entertain any application under this Act by the borrower or surety or other person liable, notwithstanding that the time for repayment of the loan, or any instalment thereof, may not have arrived.' "—(*Mr. Warr.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I accept the Amendment.

MR. H. S. FOSTER asked why the Government resisted this Amendment in Committee, and accepted it now.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he doubted whether the words were necessary, but he was satisfied, on consideration, that they could do no harm.

Question put, and agreed to.

A formal Amendment made.

*MR. BUTCHER (York) said his object in moving the Amendment standing next on the Paper was, as a friend of the Bill, who desired to see it shaped in the interest of all parties, to secure that there should be an effective appeal in proper cases from the decision of the county court judge. By the Bill they were giving to the inferior courts a very wide, extended, and delicate jurisdiction for the first time. This jurisdiction has hitherto been exercised by the judges of the Chancery Division, but their decisions have been subject to appeal not only on questions of law, but on questions of fact. It was that unrestricted right of appeal which he wished to give in cases decided in the inferior courts. It would not only secure justice to the individual, but uniformity in practice. Under the existing law there was an appeal from the inferior courts on questions of law, but not of fact. But a judge of the inferior court had under this Bill to decide whether the interest charged was excessive, whether the amounts charged for expenses were excessive, whether the transaction was "harsh and unconscionable," and what sum was to be considered due in respect of principal and interest. Now all these were questions of fact, and having regard to that, an appeal on questions of law was altogether illusory. On every point the county court judge would give no reason in law for his decision. All he would say was that so and so was a question of fact, and he would decide accordingly. The House would observe that his Amendment was limited to giving an appeal from the inferior courts of England and Wales. There was a very good reason for that, because in Scotland and Ireland there was already an appeal from the inferior courts on questions of fact as well as of law. There was only one objection against the Amendment, and that was that it might lead to costs. His answer was two-fold. If a bad decision was given the fact that the appeal would cost something was no ground for refusing to give that appeal. The second was that the money-lender was exceedingly unlikely to appeal, except in cases where he was clearly in the right, as it would damage his reputation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'notice,' to insert the words, '(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Acts or Rules or Order in Council regulating the proceedings on appeal from inferior courts, any party aggrieved by the judgment, direction, decision, or order of the judge of any inferior court in England or Wales before whom proceedings are taken under this section may appeal from the same to a divisional court, subject to such conditions as may from time to time be provided by rules of the Supreme Court; provided that, unless by special leave of the said judge, there shall be no appeal unless the amount claimed by the money-lender in respect of which the proceedings are taken shall exceed the sum of twenty pounds; provided also, that if on the hearing of the appeal it shall appear to the divisional court that a new trial ought to be had, it shall be lawful for the said court, if it shall think fit, to order that the verdict and judgment shall be set aside, and that a new trial shall be had."—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said his hon. and learned friend had referred to one objection to the proposal—namely, the costs that might be run up if the right of appeal were given, and he was afraid that the longer purse would have the advantage. His hon. and learned friend had suggested that a money-lender unless he were in the right would not damage his reputation by appealing to the superior courts, but experience hardly bore that out. He was not at all certain that the Amendment would give the right of appeal as to the facts. The only appeal from county courts at present was in matters of law and equity, and he thought in a measure of that kind it was much better to adhere to the general system of procedure in England, according to which there was no appeal from county courts except on questions of law and equity.

MR. BECKETT said he would really appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision on the matter, and if they could see their way to accept the Amendment it would remove many of the objections taken to the Bill. The Attorney General had suggested that the right of appeal would be in favour of the money-lender, but as a matter of fact a money-lender was extremely unwilling to go into court. The Bill was really the outcome of prejudice, because the Committee which was appointed to inquire into money-lending inquired only into the abuses of the business, and refused to listen to the other side, and they came away with the impression that the whole system involved gigantic abuse. The Isaac Gordons were quite in a small minority, and the majority of the money-lenders were a thoroughly respectable, honest, and straightforward set of men, and deserved protection just as much as any other class. The amount of money involved in money-lending transactions ought to be considered by the Government. It was estimated at fifty millions annually; the business was most beneficial to the districts in which it was carried on, and it would be most unfortunate if it were hampered and restricted. The Government said they wished to stop harsh dealing. That was quite right, but at the same time they ought to be careful to refrain from doing anything that would hamper legitimate business. The provisions of the Bill as they stood involved serious danger of that, but the money-lending fraternity would be quite willing if they even secured the protection afforded by his hon. friend's clause. The Bill created new offences and imposed serious penalties, and that was again another reason why the moneylender should be afforded protection. If by this Bill the business of money-lending were made insecure, it would be driven underground, and would break out in all sorts of ways, with the result that borrowers would find themselves much worse off than they are at present. Again, if the matter were to be left to the county court judges, different decisions would be given in different parts of the country, and a money-lender would not know on what principles he could carry on his business. One judge might consider 5 per cent. unconscionable. Mr. Justice Mathew fixed the limit at 10 per cent, other judges at 25 per cent., and some even at 60 per cent. under certain circumstances. How could money-lending be carried on under such conditions? It was in order to introduce some regularity into the decisions of county court judges that his hon. friend desired to press his Amendment on the attention of the Government, and also in the interests of the business of the country, which was to a great extent dependent on money-lending. He trusted, therefore, the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. LABOUCHERE said that the term "money-lender" in the Bill meant usurer, and usurers were a class against whom there was a very ancient feeling. If the hon. Gentleman read the Old Testament, he would find very strong observations regarding them. He agreed with the Attorney General's view of the Amendment. If a man got a decision against a usurer, then he would be told it would be of no benefit to him, because the usurer would appeal to a higher court. In fact, the usurer would make it part and parcel of his business, whenever a decision was given against him, to appeal, and then to endeavour to make some arrangement to get what he could out of the man with whom he had to deal. The only argument used in favour of the Amendment was that if the right of appeal were granted it would not be used because the money-lender would not desire publicity; but he had already been into one court, and he was not a modest, bashful sort of man. He would remind the hon. Gentleman of the fact that a certain usurer named Shylock went into the supreme court of Venice and claimed his pound of flesh, and was not in the least ashamed of it.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE said the part he was taking in connection with the Bill was in the interest of the borrower. It was assumed by the hon. Member for Northampton that judgment would always be given against the money-lender and in favour of the borrower, and the hon. Member thought that the money-lender ought not to have the right of appeal. But, supposing a judge taking a strong view of the sanctity of a contract refused relief to the borrower, then he also would be refused the right of appeal. Surely both parties ought to be entitled to appeal except in cases under £20. If a case came before a puisne judge the defendant and the plaintiff would both have the right to appeal, if aggrieved by a decision, on the facts as well as the law, and the puisne judge was superior in legal knowledge and experience to a county court judge. To grant an appeal in one case and to refuse it in the other was making one law for the rich and another for the poor, and was not acting justly towards different classes of persons. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment. It was only by an appeal to the High Court of Justice that definite lines could be laid down.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said they were enlarging very greatly the sphere of the jurisdiction of the county courts in matters on which the decisions of the courts of equity were not so numerous as to afford an adequate guide. It would, he believed, be an unfortunate thing if a body of law were developed in this way by the inferior courts without the possibility of any appeal. He thought that was an argument that ought to have some weight with the Government in considering the Amendment.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said he would also join in the appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision, although he was afraid the appeal fell on somewhat deaf ears. One fact which was brought out very clearly in the Committee was that the right which the Amendment asked for for England was enjoyed in Ireland and Scotland, and that it worked satisfactorily in those countries. If the Bill passed in its present form this curious anomaly would be presented, that there would be an appeal from every inferior court in Scotland and Ireland, but no appeal from an inferior court in England. They were, for the first time, largely extending the powers of the county court judges, and in such a way as to depend largely on individual discretion. The only thing that was said against the appeal—apart from the fact that they were only dealing with money-lenders who were, as the hon. Member for Northampton said, a class outside the law, such was the unjust spirit and prejudice with which this measure had been conceived—was that it would involve cost. Bearing in mind that important statement of the hon. Member for Whitby, as to the prejudice with which money-lenders were regarded, and the difficulty of their obtaining justice, he should think that an appeal by a money-lender would be enormously risky. The borrower would have very little cause to fear, and he should say that if the decision was in favour of the borrower there would be very little chance of the money-lender coming to terms. If the county court judges went wrong—as judges even of the high courts sometimes did—it was right to give a borrower the same right of appeal from the inferior courts on questions of fact as on questions of law.

DR. TANNER (Cork County, Mid) said he had listened to the various arguments that had been raised. In the first place the hon. Gentleman who came from the city of Cork, but was Member for York, had absolutely got no knowledge of all this money-lending business——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is quite irrelevant.

DR. TANNER said he would point out in connection with this Amendment that nearly all the Gentlemen who supported it, with one exception, were lawyers hanging on to the coat-tails of the money-lenders, and for that reason alone he would not support it.

Question put.

A division being challenged, MR. SPEAKER named Mr. Tully and Mr. P. A. McHugh as Tellers for the Ayes.

MR. BUTCHER said he understood the Tellers were to be Mr. Beckett and himself.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for North Leitrim gave that information at the Table, which was a highly irregular thing to do without consulting the hon. Member in charge of the Amendment. Tellers for the Ayes, Mr. Butcher and Mr. Beckett.

The House divided:—Ayes, 12; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 257.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Emmott, Alfred
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Griffith, Ellis J.
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
M‘Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Moss, Samuel
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Butcher and Mr. Beckett.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt Hon Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Billson, Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macaleese, Daniel
Macdona, John Cumming
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Killop, James
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Purvis, Robert
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. BECKETT said the object of the Amendment which he desired to move was that the actual sum of money should be paid into court, and that if the borrower were unable to pay a lump sum he might by order of the court pay by instalments. The prejudice against money-lenders was so strong that they were considered in some cases not even entitled to their own. The Amendment was—

"In page 2, line 15, at end, to insert, 'Provided also, that no such account shall be taken unless or until the actual amount advanced by the money-lender to the person against whom the proceedings are taken, after deducting any sum or sums (if any) repaid to the money-lender, whether for principal, interest, bonus, or otherwise connected with the transaction, shall have been paid either to the money-lender or into court, but the court may order repayment of the actual amount advanced, or the balance for the time being owing by instalments, and adjourn the application for such amount until the repayment has been made.'"

MR. CALDWELL, on a point of order, said he desired to know whether an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Toxteth Division of Liverpool, which had been accepted, did not cover the Amendment now moved.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The principal object of the hon. Member's Amendment has already been provided for in the previous Amendment, which has been accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, after line 17, to add 'In the application of this Act to Scotland this section shall read as if the words "or otherwise any court of equity would give relief" were omitted therefrom.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. H. S. FOSTER asked for an explanation of the Amendment.

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) said that the section as it originally stood would not present any practical difficulty in its application to Scotland, because the words "harsh and unconscionable" were ordinary words in the English language, and the Scotch courts would construe them accordingly, and would apply them by analogy to the Scotch law. But if the words "any court of equity would give relief" were included it would create a difficulty, because in every such case a couple of English counsel would have to be examined in order to know whether a court of equity would or would not give relief.

Mr. SYDNEY GEDGE asked if the hon. Member for South Leeds was aware that the Lord Advocate intended to move the Amendment, because it appeared to him that the words had been assented to by the Government.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not know whether the hon. Member for South Leeds was aware that he would move the Amendment, but the hon. Member ought to be in his place.

Question put, and agreed to.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said the object of the Amendment he was about to move was to carry out what he believed to be one of the purposes of the Bill—namely, to ensure that the borrower should be able to ascertain from a register, if necessary, who the individual was with whom he was dealing. Now, however, that limited companies were to be allowed to carry on the business of money-lending, it appeared to him that the Amendment would not carry out the object for which it was intended, and he would therefore not move it.

Mr. H. S. FOSTER moved that the debate be now adjourned. They had arrived at two o'clock in the morning. In Committee the last part of the Bill was rushed through without discussion on the express condition that there would be full opportunity for discussion on the Report stage. He himself, on that request, did not move a great many Amendments which he intended to move. It must be perfectly clear to the House that they were not free at that time of the morning. They felt that they were keeping hon. Members out of bed. [Hon. Members: No.] He was quite prepared to go on till twelve o'clock that day, but he wished to feel that he was relieved of the odium of keeping Members out of bed. They were looked upon with a species of personal resentment by Members on the Front Bench because they dared to speak to their Amendments.

Motion made, and Question put, "That further proceedings on consideration, as amended, be adjourned."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 19; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 258.)

AYES.

Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Caldwell, James
Colville, John
Dewar, Arthur
Duckworth, James
Gedge, Sydney
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Macaleese, Daniel
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr
Moss, Samuel
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.

Tellers for the Ayes—
Mr. Harry Foster and Mr
David Thomas.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry

Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cornwallis,FiennesStanleyW.
Crilly, Daniel
Curzon, Viscount
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton,Rt.Hon.LordGeorge
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Healey, Maurice (Cork)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Lawrence,SirEDurning-(Corn.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
M'Killop, James
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Murray,RtHnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicol, Donal Ninian
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlingt'n
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ritchie,Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Tully, Jasper
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks,E.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. H. S. FOSTER in moving to strike out Sub-section (1) (*a*) of Clause 2, said that the sub-section, as drawn, limited prosecutions. The clause required the money-lender to do a varied number of things, and made it a penal offence if he failed to comply with these things. He was required to register himself as a money-lender, and to carry on his business in his registered name and in no other, and at his registered address and no other. Then he had to furnish the borrower with certain documents, and the clause went on to say that if he failed to do any of these things he would be liable to prosecution and punishment. The object of his Amendment was to extend the same protection as was provided in regard to Sub-section (1) (*a*) to the other sub-sections—namely, that before prosecution was instituted the permission of the Law Officers of the Crown should be obtained. That permission would always be obtained if a *prima facie* case were shown.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words 'Sub-section (1) (*a*) of.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the permission of the Law Officers of the Crown was only necessary where there was danger of special abuse of the power of prosecution. There was nothing difficult in regard to prosecutions under Sub-sections (*b*), (*c*), and (*d*); but in case of Sub-section (*a*), where consent was required, it was eminently necessary that there should be some check on the institution of proceedings. It was very difficult to obtain information as to who was a money-lender, and very vexatious proceedings might be instituted from improper motives against a person on the suggestion that he was a money-lender, when in point of fact he really did not come within the terms and spirit of the Act; and it was thought necessary to restrict the power in that case.

Question put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said the object of the Amendment he now moved was to secure that a Return should be made to the House, as there seemed to be some doubt whether without the Amendment the ordinary practice would not prevail. It appeared to him to be the proper thing that a Return should be laid on the Table of the House, and that the House should exercise some control over the action of the Commissioners.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 19, after the word 'therefor,' to insert the words 'and such regulations shall be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the House would not accept the Amendment. The Return to which this clause applied only proposed to regulate details with reference to registration.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said the next Amendment which he desired to move was one of substance and importance. The clause created fresh offences, in the wording of it, even if the words "or promise" were omitted, and appeared to him to lend itself to very serious abuse. If a man made a misleading promise or a deceptive statement that would be clearly an offence, and it was quite right that it should be punished, or if a man concealed material facts it was right he should be punished, also, but the words in the clause were, in his opinion, very dangerous and should be properly defined. The clause opened the door to very great abuse, and he hoped the Government would accept the Amendment. There was always danger in indefinite words of that kind.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out the words 'or promise.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or promise' stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that his hon. friend would observe that the words were governed by the following words, "fraudulently induces or attempts to induce." A mere promise did not constitute a crime. He was encouraged to retain the words by the fact that the hon. Member himself had included them in a subsequent Amendment of his own.

MR. MAURICE HEALY said that in Ireland a prisoner could not be examined in his own defence. It appeared to him that in such cases as would arise under this Bill the defendant should be examined in his own defence, otherwise the lender would be at the mercy of the borrower.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that by permission of the House he might say the matter mentioned by the hon. Member was one of very great weight. He did not know whether there would be any objection on the part of hon. Gentlemen from Ireland to the insertion of words enabling a defendant in such cases to give evidence on his own behalf.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.) said that everyone knew that in ninety-nine cases of money-lending out of every hundred the whole transaction was induced by promises, and the section seemed to him to be for the purpose of protecting borrowers from fraudulent promises.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. H. S. FOSTER said the object of his next Amendment was to apply the same consequences to fraudulent borrowers that were applied to fraudulent money-lenders. The Attorney General had stated that he had included the words "or promise" in the Amendment, but he did so because if he omitted them the right hon. Gentleman would state that he was not applying the same law to the borrower as to the money-lender. He therefore followed the wording of the clause, but if the words "or promise" had been omitted in the clause he would have omitted them from the Amendment. The sympathy of the House was being directed by the Government entirely in the direction of borrowers, but in fairness it should be said that there were a large number of fraudulent borrowers, and if the money-lender had frequently to exact what for a bank would be a very heavy rate of interest, it was because he reckoned on a large percentage of loss from fraudulent borrowers. It seemed to him that the same law ought to be applied to the fraudulent borrower as to the fraudulent money-lender.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 31, after the word 'borrowed,' to insert the words 'or if any person by any false, misleading, or deceptive statement, representation, or promise, or by any dishonest concealment of facts induces, or attempts to induce, any money-lender, or any manager, agent, or clerk of the money-lender, to lend money to him or to any other person.'"—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the House would not accept the Amendment. The Bill was introduced not for the purpose of casting any aspersions on money-lenders generally, many of whom were most respectable men, but for the purpose of checking abuses which undoubtedly existed in connection with that business, and the need of a measure in the interests of borrowers as against money-lenders was one which had forced itself on the moral sense of the community. He would also call attention to the fact that this Amendment might be used by an unscrupulous money-lender with crushing effect.

MR. MOSS hoped that the hon. Member would press his Amendment to a division. He did not see why the money-lender, who was conducting a *bona fide* business which served a very useful purpose, should be placed at a great disadvantage compared with the money-borrower. If the lender was induced by fraud to lend money, the borrower should be placed under the same penalty as the money-lender who induced by fraud the borrower to borrow money. He did not see that the observations of the Attorney General were at all logical in connection with this clause.

MR. BECKETT said that there was a recent case in which a borrower went to a money-lender and borrowed money, telling him that he only owed £300, whereas shortly after it came out that he owed £6,000. He was prosecuted for obtaining money on false pretences and acquitted, whereupon the borrower proceeded against the money-lender for false prosecution, and obtained a verdict for a considerable sum as damages. If they looked at the bankruptcy Returns it would be seen that borrowers were not spoken of in high terms. When people were foolish and dishonest enough to borrow from usurers they were utterly regardless of how they obtained loans, even by false representations.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. BECKETT said the object of the Amendment he now proposed was to give some protection to the lender. Unless some such precaution as was pointed out in the Amendment were taken, the money-lender would be placed entirely in the power of the borrower, and would also be liable to be blackmailed by a dishonest clerk.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 34, after the word 'both,' to insert the words, 'Provided that a court shall not convict under this section unless the statement, representation, promise, or concealment be contained in some written document, or be proved by evidence other than that of the borrower, intending borrower, or sureties (if any).'"—(*Mr. Beckett.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the House would not adopt this Amendment. It would introduce a hard-and-fast arbitrary rule of evidence that would not do justice. There might be no writing at all in the case; and if there were two or three persons of unimpeachable integrity to testify, surely that would be evidence.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. H. S. FOSTER moved to leave out Clause 5. The clause seemed to him to be exceedingly objectionable in form, because it went against the ordinary maxim of the law that a man was innocent until he was found guilty. The clause proceeded on the assumption that the man was guilty until he was proved to be innocent. If the clause passed, the money-lender would have to prove that he had reasonable grounds for believing that the person with whom he was dealing was of age; but that might be an exceedingly difficult thing to do. Everyone would sympathise with the object of this particular clause, which was to prevent the communication of offers of money to minors, who were particularly liable to temptation, and university students. Any right-minded person must have sympathy with any fair provision having that object; but that ought not to induce them to agree to a clause of this kind.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 5."—(*Mr. H. S. Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the House would allow the clause to stand as it was. No doubt in particular cases it might be impossible to give actual proof that the person sending out the circular believed the youth was of age; but whether the youth was of age or not, the circular was intended to lead to the belief that he had proof of the fact that he was of age.

Question put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1898-9.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed—"That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8s. 3d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18s. 3d.

(*b*.) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13s. 5d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3s. 3d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 9s. 10d.

(*c*.) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses ...	825,325	12	7
Total Deficits ...	577,801	4	6
Net Surplus...	£247,524	8	1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services	...	551 11 11	...	636 9
4 ...	Martial Law... ...	719 3 2	...	...	40 8
5 ...	Educational Services	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11
6 ...	Scientific Services ...	2,897 18 0	..	...	5,423 0
7 ...	Royal Naval Reserves	...	13,683 11 1	...	188 13
8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.:				
Sec. 1 ..	Personnel ...	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
Sec. 2...	Matériel	192,715 5 7	...	...	43,268 14
Sec. 3...	Contract Work ...	...	749,758 9 6	2,053 13 10	
9 ...	Naval Armaments ...	...	8,525 13 6	73 15 11	
10 ...	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad... ...	91,241 9 9	...	...	10,752 7

SCHEDULE—*continued.*

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure. Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1. £ s. d.	Gross Expenditure. Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2. £ s. d.	Appropriations in Aid. Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3. £ s. d.	Appropriations in Aid. Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4. £ s. d.
11 ...	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	32,862 19 2	...	...	1,553 16 2
12 ...	Admiralty Office ...	500 5 8	...	...	1 17 9
13 ...	Half-pay, Reserved and Retired Pay ...	18,169 4 5	...	954 1 6	
14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3

Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3 | Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £247,524 8 1

That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present session), and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £268,594 1s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 1 of Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £100,615 14s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £167,978 7s. 7d.

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £48,828 14s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £226,126 0s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £177,297 6s. 3d.

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses...	278,806	12	5
Total Deficits ...	269,487	13	9
Net Surplus...	£9,318	18	8

That by a Vote of Parliament during the present session (House of Commons Paper, No. 90, of 1900) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1898–9, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £168,070 2s. 6d.

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, etc., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	29,358 10 11	...	...	100,529 17 8
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... ...	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48,384 14 2	
11	Establishments for Military Education... ...	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc....	...	4,412 6 8	...	3,915 16 11
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	240 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote	...	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		
		Net Deficit, £167,878 7 7		Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3	
		Net Surplus £9,418 18 8			

—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL said this matter was very complicated, and as hon. Members had been in attendance for twelve hours, progress should be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Jonathan Samuel.*)

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) said the matter appeared every year, and was merely formal.

DR. TANNER said that when he was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, the matter was one which always required investigation. They had been assisting the Government to pass the Money-lending Bill, and the Government now brought in financial business which could wait until to-morrow. The Government were trying at that late hour to rush through a large sum of money.

MR. HANBURY said the hon. Member was under a misapprehension. The Government were asking for no money. They were simply asking the sanction of the House for what had been already done by the Treasury in transferring the surplus of one Vote to make up the deficiency of the other.

DR. TANNER said that the matter had always been a *casus belli* on the Public Accounts Committee. He appealed to the Government to let it stand over until to-morrow.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present (Mr. BRYN ROBERTS, Carnarvonshire, Eifion). House counted, and forty Members being found present,

MR. TULLY said he hoped the matter would not be persisted in. They had been supporting the Government against their own supporters, and he thought it unfair that they, who conscientiously objected to money being voted for the war, should now be asked to consider financial proposals. He found that one of the items was for the Yeomanry. That word had an evil sound in Ireland.

THE CHAIRMAN: I beg to call the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that no money is to be voted for any service.

*MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL said the Committee should have more information than had yet been given. He found in the resolution that last year there was an unexpended surplus of £825,000, and they ought to know the reason why. That sum was now being transferred to some other item. Then the excess of the gross expenditure was £637,000. These sums were very large, and he thought they should have an explanation from the Government regarding them. That was the practice in municipal life. Corporations never thought of asking for more money than what they required for the given year; and it seemed to him that that was the practice on which they ought to prepare the Estimates year after year. Large sums of money were asked for, some were unexpended, and at the end of the year they were spent in other directions. If these large sums were not required it would be much better to use them in the reduction of taxation.

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that there was no Vote before the Committee.

*MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL said it was not a vote, but a resolution, and he should like to hear from the hon. Member for Mid Lanark whether he was partly responsible for taking this resolution at that time of the morning, and whether this was one of his arrangements. When they had been increasing taxation——

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Gentleman that that had nothing to do with the business before the Committee.

*MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL said that this resolution dealt with last year's accounts, and he would be quite in order in discussing whether fresh taxes put in it were necessary. He asked for a full explanation why these large amounts were unexpended in one direction and large amounts over the Estimates were expended in another direction. It showed very lax work on the part of those responsible for the Estimates. And, therefore, he begged leave, seeing that it was time the House adjourned, to move to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR hoped that the motion would not be pressed. The hon. Gentleman was speaking under a misapprehension. This was a purely formal resolution that had to be passed every year to comply with the statute; and it had nothing to do with the finances of the year. It would not be in order upon the resolution to discuss taxation or expenditure. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that it was a formal matter, and the reason they were pressing it on the House that evening was that it was absolutely necessary in order to comply with the requirements of the Appropriation Bill. The date of the holidays, besides, depended upon it.

Mr. CRILLY (Mayo, N.) said that they on the Irish benches had dealt with the right hon. Gentleman very generously that night, and were perfectly willing to give way to him now. He wanted, however, to point out to the First Lord of the Treasury that he did not think it fair that a paid member of the Government should be put into the Chair to preside over their deliberations at that time of the morning. Mr. Arthur O'Connor should have taken the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! It is quite out of order to address the Chairman in terms like these.

Mr. CRILLY assured Mr. Jesse Collings that he had no disposition whatever to say anything offensive. He, however, wanted to enter his strongest and most vigorous protest against the presiding officer being a paid member of the Government, when a small minority were fighting against them to the end of a night like that.

Mr. Jonathan Samuel.

Mr. CALDWELL thought the Government had themselves a good deal to blame for the position in which they found themselves. If it was important that this Committee stage should really have been taken that night, why did they not put the resolution down in an earlier part of the programme? It was no answer to say that it was merely formal. He was bound to say that it would have passed more readily at nine o'clock last night than at three o'clock that morning. He had no objection to the motion, but if the Government kept on the House till three in the morning and began fresh business they might expect opposition. The Government had got their Moneylending Bill, and why should they force matters? If the First Lord of the Treasury would consent to report progress he would find that the matter would go through in the ordinary course.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that the Government had done their best to meet the views of the House that night, and especially the views of the Irish Members; and he must say that he did not think they had been well treated when objection was taken to their asking the House to take a measure which the hon. Gentleman acknowledged was a merely formal matter. He agreed to report progress upon the understanding that the resolution should be taken without discussion at the next sitting.

Dr. TANNER said that other Members would be there on the morrow with whose views they were not conversant; and were they to be responsible for them in regard to this matter?

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Sir William Walrond*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Three of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 1st August, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL [Lords]. (BY ORDER.)

Ordered, That, in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords], Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 223 and 243, be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) asked if the motion put from the Chair covered both the Second and Third Readings—both being "by Order." He never remembered seeing that before.

*MR. SPEAKER said the circumstances were somewhat peculiar, the Bill having been dealt with by a joint Committee. The Bill had been read a second time, and this was a motion which practically suspended the Report stage. At the close of the session it was not at all uncommon to suspend the Standing Orders in order to carry a Bill of this character through its different stages.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL [Lords]. (BY ORDER.)

Ordered, That, in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [Lords], Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid), in moving that the Bill be read a second time upon that day three months, claimed the indulgence the House always extended to a Member addressing it for the first time. He did so only because of the importance of the Bill, which, however, he feared, at that late period of the session, might not receive the attention to which it was entitled. Not only was the measure before the House important in itself and in its direct effects, but if passed into law it would also have a serious effect, and, in his opinion, a most injurious effect upon the future of railways in Ireland. As the House was aware, there was in the south-east and west of Ireland a practical railway monopoly by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, who were the promoters of this Bill. What little competition did exist was due to the existence of the Waterford and Central Company, and the only hope that there might be of more effective competition in the future lay in the separate existence of the latter company, which it was proposed to extinguish. As he understood, it had been the policy of the House to refuse to sanction amalgamation of competing companies, or at least to insist, if there was amalgamation, upon substantial reductions of rates over all the systems amalgamated; and he submitted that the House should not in this case depart from its settled policy and assent to the absorption of one competing line by the other. The Great Southern and Western Railway had 604 miles of railway, the Waterford and Limerick had 342 miles, and the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Company 144 miles. The Great Southern and Western and the Waterford and Limerick would, in his opinion, form a combination so strong as completely to dwarf all other lines and destroy any chance there might be of useful competition in the south and west of Ireland. The Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway was not at present a competing line, but an amalgamation

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

between it and the Waterford and Limerick Railway, which was quite feasible, would provide an alternative route to Cork and the south of Ireland, and thus create keen and healthy competition. The measure before the House would destroy all hope of any such amalgamation, and intensify the present railway monopoly in the south of Ireland. Most undoubtedly such monopoly did exist, and the dangers resulting from it had often been recognised by the House. One of the greatest evils with which this monopoly was charged was the excessive rates both for passengers and goods. The injury inflicted by these excessive rates on small farmers and traders in Ireland could not be exaggerated. They were seriously handicapped and crippled in their efforts to compete with their more fortunate rivals abroad. The iron collar of railway monopoly had too long strangled the efforts of traders and farmers in Ireland to meet foreign competition. The Allport Commission of 1888 stated that the rates and charges in Ireland for heavy goods, such as coal and building materials, were generally higher than in England, and that larger facilities were given for third-class passenger traffic in Great Britain than in Ireland. The rate from Limerick to London was 35s. per ton, while from Chicago to London it was only about 50s. to 55s., although Chicago was nearly 1,000 miles from the port of shipment. [The hon. Member gave other instances of excessive rates.] Time after time various remedies had been suggested for the evils resulting from the railway monopoly in Ireland. That recommended by the Allport Commission was the setting up of a separate Railway Commission in Ireland, which should be administrative in its nature, and have full power to remedy grievances and protect in every way the interests of the public against the dangers arising from monopoly caused by partial or complete amalgamation of different companies. It also recommended that a general scale of rates and tolls applicable to all Ireland should be prescribed by Statute, to come into force as each amalgamation took place. He held that, until that Commission was set up, the House should not sanction an amalgamation which would make future control more difficult, and that no amalgamation stifling competition should be permitted. In 1898, when the Rosslare and Fishguard Railway Bill was before the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Financial Secretary to the Treasury gave the assurance that the Government were anxious that that route should be a competitive one and provide an alternative route to the Great Southern and Western line to Dublin; but if this Bill was passed it would prevent that alternative route being completed, and give the Great Southern and Western absolute command of both routes. Again, the House last year condemned the proposed absorption of the Waterford and Limerick and the Waterford and Central Ireland lines by the Great Southern and Western, and the Committee which considered the Bill were unanimous against the absorption. In the face of that announcement of the Secretary to the Treasury and the decision of a former Committee, he hoped the House would not sanction this amalgamation, which was, moreover, opposed by the Irish people and a large number of Irish representatives. Again, this Bill did not provide, as it ought to do, for substantial reductions in the rates and charges as some compensation to the public for the injury which they would undoubtedly suffer through this monopoly. Such provision had been the policy of the House in cases of amalgamation by the London and North Western Railway, the Great Western Railway, and the Caledonian Railway. These companies, when they formed amalgamations, were compelled to lower their rates as much as one-half. It was said that there was an appeal to the Railway and Canal Commission if the rates were excessive. That, to his mind, was practically a useless remedy, because of the enormous trouble and expense of approaching that body by people in Ireland. In fact, during the whole of the years that body had been in existence there was only one Irish appeal to it, and that by Guinness and Company, the brewers. All that was fully recognised by the Allport Commission, which thought that the Railway and Canal Commission was not suited to the needs of Ireland, as the legal expenses involved made it of little practical utility in a country where the interests involved were comparatively small compared with the costs of procedure. Besides, the present Railway and Canal Commission had only judicial powers, whereas the Allport Commission strongly recommended the creation of an administrative Railway Board for Ireland as a remedy for the large amount of railway monopoly in Ireland. If this Bill was passed it would be going in the teeth of the recommendations of the Allport Commission and of all public opinion in Ireland.

SIR HARRY BULLARD (Norwich) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the question."

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington) said he was bound to say a little as to why this Bill should proceed, seeing that he sat on the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons which considered the measure. That Committee sat no fewer than twenty-seven days, and he ventured to say gave the Bill the fullest possible consideration; and they were distinctly of opinion that its passing would be a benefit not only to the South, but to the whole of Ireland. The hon. Member had asserted that it would kill competition in the South of Ireland between the Great Southern and Western line and the Waterford and Limerick line. Ample evidence, however, had been brought before the Joint Committee that the competition between these two lines was almost nothing. The evidence was overwhelming that the Waterford and Limerick line had been practically unable to compete with such a strong line as the Great Southern and Western. The Committee thought that the weak line should be handed over to the strong line, rather than that an inefficient and totally ineffective competition should go on. The Committee thought very strongly that it would be for the benefit of Ireland that the new route from the South of England by the Great Western Railway and the Fishguard and Rosslare Railway should be made as strong as possible, in order that there should be keen competition between the London and North Western Railway and the Great Western Railway for passengers and goods between England and Ireland. The hon. Member in speaking of the competition that would be done away with had omitted to mention the very salient fact that the Committee had given the Dublin and Wexford Railway running powers over the Waterford and Limerick line, which would strengthen such competition as previously existed. He trusted the House would support the decision at which the Committee had arrived.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) thought that whatever might be the advantages of Joint Committees they must all acknowledge that they had further complicated the already sufficently complicated system of procedure. It should not be forgotten, when the hon. Member who had just spoken asked the House to endorse the opinion of his Committee, that the Committee of last year had declined to recommend the proposals of the promoters. So far as he was personally concerned his views on the subject were absolutely unchanged. He was against the creation of a monopoly, even if that monopoly were more generous than the Great Southern and Western Company were known to be. He believed that very few Members conversant with Ireland would be prepared to support the Great Southern and Western Company in the policy which in the past had always actuated it. It was a fact that in his own constituency the county council were in favour of the Bill, and for that reason he would not vote against it, but at the same time he could not help, in stating his refusal to vote for it, saying that he believed the view favourable to the Bill would be found to be a mistake. When the idea that underlay this amalgamation scheme was first proposed, amongst the promises held out by the Great Western Railway was one that even if a measure of the kind was agreed to they would still continue their daily services of steamers between Milford Haven and Waterford. It was owing to that promise that the Member for Waterford had supported the Rosslare scheme; but the company had now made application before the Committee and obtained from it its consent that for the future all through bookages must be over the system of the Great Western and their steamers, thus shutting out the steamers that run from Waterford to various ports—there being at present some seven or eight sailings weekly. If that was carried out the Great Southern and Western Railway would have a monopoly of that traffic, and there could be no healthy competition. In the interests of Waterford that should not be allowed. The effect of the Bill would be to establish a bad monopoly, and place the country in the hands of a railway company which hardly anyone in Ireland could be got to speak a word in favour of. Members for the west of Ireland, who desired to get increased competition, might be satisfied, but he himself was convinced that the Bill was opposed to the true interests of Munster and that part of Leinster affected by it.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he was sorry that his hon friend the Member for Waterford's personal views were against this amalgamation, but he was pleased to hear that the county council of Waterford was in favour of it. He had not the smallest interest in either of the railways, and had taken no part whatever either for or against the amalgamation hitherto. But he had watched with keen interest the labours of the Joint Committee, which sat for twenty-seven days, and he could say that they deserved the greatest praise for the pains they took, and for examining carefully into everything connected with the amalgamation. The constituency he represented was one of the most interested in the amalgamation. That constituency was possibly one of the poorest in the country, and he felt certain that the English Member who seconded the throwing out of the Bill did not desire to keep the west of Ireland in the state it was in at present. He was surprised that a Member for the north of Ireland, who had less to do with the west of Ireland than with India, should have been chosen to move that the Bill should be thrown out. And the hon. Member for Norwich probably knew as much of the west of Ireland as he did of Kamtschatka. The hon. Member for Mid Armagh stated that not sufficient time had been given to the consideration of the Bill. A more ridiculous statement never was made. The Committee sat for twenty-seven days, and it was trifling with the patience of hon. Members for the south and west of Ireland to make such statements. He would endeavour to point out why he was personally in favour, and why the county council of Clare and the majority of his constituents were absolutely in favour of the Bill. In the first place, when they were told that this amalgamation would make a monopoly, the fact was lost sight of that a far greater competition would spring out of the amalgamation. They would have the Great Western Railway of England at the back of one line in Ireland, and the London and North Western Railway at the back of another, and they were bound to compete for the Irish traffic, and so render a great public service. That alone should induce hon. Members not to hesitate in conferring a great boon on the south and west of Ireland. One of the counsel engaged to oppose the Bill in Committee said that nearly all the county councils were absolutely in favour of the amalgamation, subject to certain concessions being given—which had been done, or he would have opposed the Bill; but, said this counsel, the county councils of Ireland did not represent the feelings of the people! He would tell the House, however, that the county councils did represent the mind and feelings of the people of Ireland. The farmers in his district had presented a petition to have their produce carried at lower rates, but that counsel answered that the farmers knew nothing about railways. He thought the farmers knew what they wanted just as much as the hon. Member for Norwich or the hon. Member for Mid Armagh, and he believed they would have what they wanted. He had not heard a single reason against the Bill which would hold water. The House would do a gross injustice to the industries of Ireland and to the agricultural and fishing population of the west of Ireland if they refused to pass the Bill. They had not asked the House for much money, but they did ask that the railway might be allowed to give them a chance by sending cheaper the produce of the west. He hoped hon. Members of this House would do their best to pass the Second Reading.

*MR. HAZELL (Leicester) said the Committee which sat to consider this question inquired very closely into the matter for some twenty-seven days. The hon. Member for Mid Armagh based his opposition to the Bill upon the ground that it created a monopoly. He did not go on to show that the railways in Ireland were dependent more upon cross-Channe traffic than local traffic, and while this Bill would tend to competition in thi direction it would no doubt create a certain amount of monopoly in the local traffic. The Committee were forewarned as to the danger and difficulty which might come of an unregulated competition, and they had been careful as far as possible to regulate it. The county councils concerned were practically unanimously in favour of the scheme. Although they might not represent the large trading concerns they represented the small traders and farmers in Ireland, and whether they were railway experts or not, they knew on which side their bread was buttered, and they knew that this scheme would develop their interests. One of the difficulties which affected the tourist traffic was the slowness of the trains. Evidence had been given of tourists who travelled from the west to the north of Ireland having sacrificed the tickets which they had taken on one line of railway and gone by another, because the trains on the one line were so slow. In some parts it was impossible to make a return journey of forty miles in one day. Throughout the whole of the evidence given before the Committee the opinion was expressed that the amalgamation if carried out would tend to the advantage of the community. The Committee was aware of the dangers of creating a monopoly, and a great number of witnesses expressed their hopes and fears in that respect. The evidence was not, in fact, strictly evidence, but rather expression of opinion as to what the result of the amalgamation would be and the fear that it would place the people in the power of a monopoly. That being so, great care had been taken to safeguard the community against an unregulated monopoly. Railway rates were not to be altered without the sanction of the Railway Commissioners; the present rates were to be considered the maximum, and the companies could not raise them unless they received the sanction of the Railway Commissioners. The fullest running powers were given to the Midland Great Western and the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford over the Waterford Limerick line. In his opinion this Bill would greatly improve the condition of Ireland, and that being so, he hoped it would receive the sanction of the House.

MR. USBORNE (Essex, Chelmsford) said he believed that he was right in saying that the Committee passed this Bill *nemine dissentiente.* Although the local traffic was small compared with the amount of cross Channel traffic, still there was some, and it was very desirable that there should be effective competition between the railways of Ireland, which at present was not the case. Had there been effective competition he would have been the last man in the world to support this Bill. During the twenty-seven days upon which the Committee sat a very large number of witnesses were examined, and the only opposition to the measure came from those who expected to get something out of their opposition. He hoped, for the sake of the west of Ireland, that the House would allow the Second Reading of this Bill, and that time and money would not be wasted by its rejection.

SIR R. PENROSE-FITZGERALD (Cambridge) said that, after sitting on the Committee for twenty-seven days, he formed an opinion which he had seen no reason since to alter. The question which the Committee had to decide was whether it would be better, in the interests of Ireland, to hand over to one company the absolute monopoly of the traffic of the south and south-west of Ireland, which undoubtedly would be the case if the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Limerick Bill was passed. Although the Committee did not come to a unanimous conclusion, nothing had been said since, nor had any evidence been given, to cause him to differ from the decision which the Committee had arrived at. What was required was a Railway Commission to deal specially with Irish railways. The Railway and Canal Commission was not suitable to the needs of that country, and had there been such a Commission before this Amalgamation Bill was brought before the Committee, in all probability he would have formed a different opinion to that which he now held.

SIR HARRY BULLARD desired to explain the reasons which led him to second the rejection of the Bill. The hon. Member for East Clare had said that he (Sir H. Bullard) knew no more about Ireland than he did about Kamtschatka. He had been to Ireland, and he had never been to Kamtschatka. He had studied the question in Ireland, and saw no reason to alter the opinion which he had formed.

*Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN supported the motion of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh for the rejection of this Bill, and expressed his entire concurrence in the statements of the right hon. Baronet who seconded it. The Committee which had inquired into this matter was composed entirely of English Members, who had not the opportunity of knowing the real feeling of Ireland upon the subject. All the Irish Members who sat upon the two Committees which sat in 1898 and 1899, and dealt with this question of amalgamation, declared that the amalgamation of these lines would result in a very dangerous monopoly for which there were no compensating advantages. That was the decision of gentlemen representing different parts of Ireland, who heard all the evidence brought before the Committee and all the assurances which were given by the railway companies—that if the people would open their mouths and shut their eyes they would see what they could do by-and-by. Everybody knew what a sham all these promises by railway companies to consider the interests of the public were. They never did and never would consider any interests but their own in regard to the running powers over other lines provided for by the Bill. It was well known that running powers between two companies were only useful in order that the companies could make a deal between themselves. Experience showed that the public always suffered. He did not suggest that the Committee was not actuated by the best motives and the desire to benefit Ireland, but he was surprised that the Government in such an important matter did not take care to have some Irish Members on the Committee. What would be said if in a similar matter with regard to English railways extending over three-fourths of the island, the whole of the Committee had been Irishmen? He complained that the procedure adopted on the occasion of this Bill had deprived the Irish Members of an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon it. It had the effect of muzzling them and preventing their discussing it as it ought to have been discussed. He could not conceive anything more against the principle of Home Rule than the fact that the country was to be handed over to a monopoly of this description. The hon. Member for East Clare had attacked the hon. Member for Norwich for his want of knowledge of Ireland, but he ventured to say that after his month of labour on the Committee that dealt with and rejected this amalgamation scheme last year, the hon. Gentleman had a better knowledge of that country than the hon. Member for East Clare himself. With regard to the relief of railway rates, when this Bill was passed through Parliament if the companies reduce the rates in one district they would only increase them elsewhere. He hoped the House under all the circumstances would reject the Bill. If it was necessary that something of this kind should be done, the Government should come forward and purchase the railways, or as an alternative guarantee the dividends they are making and take the control into their own hands. The worst managed concern in the world was the Waterford and Limerick Railway. The manager lived in Limerick, the secretary at Waterford, the gentleman who presided over the company elsewhere, and the meetings were held in Dublin. They were carrying the mails for the post office at £10,000 a year less than the amount the other railway companies received for the same amount of work. The reason for that was that the company had been trying for years to fail in order that they might be bought up. The people for Ireland were now going to be placed under a monopoly of one company, and he hoped the House would prevent that by accepting the Amendment of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 117; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 259.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.

Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curzon, Viscount
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.
Hazell, Walter
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'l'nd
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macaleese, Daniel
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert E
Middlemore, John T.
Monk, Charles James
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. W. Robert Wellesley
Perks, Robert William
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.
Usborne, Thomas
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt Hon Sir William H
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Maurice Healy and Mr. Malcolm.

NOES.

Baker, Sir John
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Channing, Francis Allston
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
FitzGerald, Sir Rbt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Holland, William Henry
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lloyd-George, David
Lucas-Shadwell, William
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's. C.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Marks, Henry Hananel
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Richardson, Sir Thos (Hartlep'l)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lonsdale and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN said he objected to the Third Reading being taken, upon the ground that it was irregular to do so, and there was no justification for the motion. He thought the Third Reading should be postponed until Monday.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the motion is in order. Such motions at this period of the session are very frequent, and when a Bill is put down by order of the House it cannot be postponed by mere objection on the part of an hon. Member. In this case the motion is peculiarly appropriate, because, as there is no Committee stage, exactly the same questions must arise on the Third Reading as on the Second Reading.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I still contend that the procedure followed in the case of these Bills is contrary to practice. We were prevented from altering a comma in the Bill. We could not submit a new Clause or an Amendment. I do say that it is sharp practice to insist now on the

Third Reading. I venture to suggest that the Third Reading should stand over till to-morrow. I do say that it is too much to rush such Bills as this through the House, and the House must protect itself against such practices. I have been thirteen years in this House, and I have no recollection of anything of the kind ever being done before.

*MR. SPEAKER: I can give the hon. Member one example of two stages of a Bill being taken on the same day by two motions both set down "by Order." Since the hon. Member spoke I have made inquiries, and I find that on 9th July, 1896, there were motions down in the case of the New River Bill, (1) that that Bill should be taken into consideration and (2) "that the Bill be now read a third time," neither "by Order." On 10th July they both appeared on the Paper as "by Order," and they were taken.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I ask, Sir, whether in that case the House was deprived of all opportunity of discussing it in the same way as on this particular Bill?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is another point altogether. The hon. Member has the right still to ask the House not to suspend the Standing Orders and not to read the Bill a third time. The only question is whether they should take the motion now or on a future day. I have pointed out that there are precedents for doing it now.

MR. POWER: Are there no means of providing an opportunity for discussion before the Third Reading?

*THE SPEAKER: Of course hon. Members can defeat this motion, which would practically defeat the Bill, because it would necessitate the Bill going to Committee after the Second Reading. The motion is that the Committee and Report stage be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read a third time. If the hon. Member defeats that motion, of course the Bill will go to Committee.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: May I appeal to the Chairman of Ways and Means not to press the motion? I can understand that the right hon. Gentleman may have taken it for granted that it would be for the general convenience of the House to proceed in the way proposed. He might at all events consider our views and allow the Bill to lie over till to-morrow. I would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman not to rush this Bill unnecessarily.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): In justice to the right hon. Gentleman and the other officials of the House I think it is right to state that the procedure in this case, whether it be correct or not, is procedure that was adopted after consulting the Irish Members in the fullest and fairest manner. It is very important that these Bills should be disposed of. That was fully considered, and it was because of that that this special procedure was adopted. I do not think there was a single dissentient voice in the party to which I belong when that was proposed, and it cannot be said that any advantage has been taken of the Irish Members or that the officials of the House have acted unfairly towards them. On the other point, as to whether this Bill is to be taken to-day or to-morrow, I say that while the motion of the right hon. Gentleman may not be pleasing to some of the Irish Members, on the other hand I think he is consulting, so far as I have been able to ascertain the views of my colleagues, the general desire that this matter should be finally dealt with to-day, and that some Members who at considerable inconvenience waited over to have this Bill disposed of should not be further kept. The discussion on the Third Reading cannot be anything more than what has taken place on the Second Reading, and I cannot see that any advantage whatever would be gained by letting the matter stand over. It was somewhat as a matter of grace and favour that we got this debate to-day, because it is notorious that important public business is coming on, and it was the desire of those representing the Government that this debate should not take place at all. To put it over from to-day would be inconvenient to the Irish Members. The Government very fairly offered to sacrifice its own convenience, and that being so, I say that the matter should now be disposed of.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): If I thought that the position of the hon. Member for Kilkenny would be in any way prejudiced by taking the Third Reading now, I should certainly be inclined to do what I could to postpone it, but I cannot see that the position of the hon. Member would be any better for that. The Bill to-morrow would be in exactly the same position as it is now, and therefore I do not see that any object would be gained by delaying the matter.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 112 ; Noes, 33. (Division List No. 260.)

AYES.

Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bethell, Commander
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish,V.C.W.(D'rbysh're
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A.Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis,FiennesStanleyW.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hanbury, Rt.Hon.Robt.Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, Joseph
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowther,RtHnJW(Cumb'l'nd
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macaleese, Daniel
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Hugh, Patrick A. (Leitrim)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell,Rt.Hn.SirHerbertE.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Monk, Charles James
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray,Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Dowd, John
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn. William Robert W.
Perks, Robert William
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (LancsNewton)
Purvis, Robert
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edw. T.
Sidebottom,William(Derbysh.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Usborne, Thomas
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.H.
Welby, Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn E.R.(Bath
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Maurice Healy and Mr. Malcolm.

NOES.

Baker, Sir John
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bilson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Channing, Francis Allston
Dewar, Arthur
Douglas, Charles M (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Fenwick, Charles
Flower, Ernest
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell,Dr.MA(Queen'sC
M'Kenna, Reginald
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Pease,Herb.Pike (Darlington)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Rasch,Major Frederic Carne
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Richardson,SirThos.(Hartlep'l
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfars.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson,HenryJ.(York,W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Power.

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

MARKET WEIGHTON DRAINAGE AND NAVIGATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That, in the case of the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], Standing Order 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, accordingly considered.

An Amendment made.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

LAND VALUES TAXATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Clydebank, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petition from St. Pancras, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Return [presented 24th July] to be printed. [No. 310.]

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Return [presented 31st July] to be printed. [No. 311.]

CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WAGES) (IRELAND).

Return [presented 31st July] to be printed. [No. 312.]

EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Copy presented, of Supplement of the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board 1899–1900, containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 16, 1900).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and Siam relative to the Registration of British Subjects in Siam. Signed at Bangkok, 29th November, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2489 and 2493 to 2426 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 313.]

SUPPLEMENTAL WAR LOAN BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the second time."

*SIR W. HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): We have now come to what is certainly the last Supplementary Estimate of this session, although anybody would be extremely rash to say that we have come to the last Supplementary

Estimate of the present financial year. But, as this session will be remembered —for good or for evil—as one of the most memorable financial chapters in the history of the Parliament, I think that this is the proper opportunity for taking some note of what have been the incidents of its financial existence. But before I advert to earlier matters I have some explanations to ask of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We have had what are practically three financial statements, three fragmentary Budgets—one before the financial year was completed, one when the financial year was completed, and another after the financial year was completed. I have endeavoured to make what I believe the theologians call a harmony between the right hon. Gentleman's doctrines, with, I am sorry to say, very imperfect success. I have over and over again, with as much care as I have been able to devote to the subject, endeavoured to understand what the actual cost of this war was, what the estimated cost of this war was, and what is the financial provision that has been made for it. Upon not one of those heads have I been able to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. I observe that originally the right hon. Gentleman, in his first Budget speech in March, put the estimated cost of the war at £60,000,000. That was repeated, I think, afterwards, in April; the Under Secretary for War gave the same figure some weeks ago in stating the Estimates to which this Bill is a corollary; and last night, I see by the papers, the right hon. Gentleman said that the present cost had been £42,000,000. I want to have an explanation upon these points. The provision that has been made for the war, according to the right hon. Gentleman, up to the time of this Bill is defective by £8,500,000.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) was understood to dissent.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: I will read to the right hon. Gentleman what his words were. He said in his speech, when he was introducing this matter, that

> "he required, out of the £13,000,000 he asked for, £8,500,000 for what he might call South African purposes connected directly or indirectly with the unhappy prolongation of the war."

Therefore, whatever provision has been made before this Bill was, according to this statement, insufficient to the amount of £8,500,000? Whether correct or not, those are the words.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Would the right hon. Gentleman like me to explain?

*SIR W. HARCOURT: I think I can make plain what I desire to know in a moment. What I want to know is, is that to be added to the £60,000,000 which upon repeated occasions has been stated to be the estimate of the cost of the war? My hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon asked a question, to which he got an inadequate reply, and I have tried as hard as I could to understand from these triple statements what is the view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself upon this subject. But then, in the same statement, the right hon. Gentleman said, "We have got £6,000,000 in hand." Then, if you have £6,000,000 in hand, as he stated, for this particular purpose, you do not want £8,500,000 in addition; one would suppose that what you really want is £2,500,000 in addition to what you have got in hand. I want to know whether the right hon. Gentleman really does want, in addition to the £6,000,000 he says he has got in hand, £8,500,000, or whether he wants the balance between the £6,000,000 he has in hand and the £8,500,000. I defy anybody reading those statements to say which it is. If he wants £8,500,000 besides £6,000,000 then the cost of the war as now estimated is £68,000,000. Now what I want to ascertain is this—not so much what has been spent up to this time, for that is not material, but what out of taxes and loans has, independent of this Bill, been assiged to the expenses of the war. That is the first fact I want to get at. I will try to state what the position is so far as I can ascertain it from the figures which have been laid before us. In his first Budget speech the right hon. Gentleman said there was an estimate of £23,270,000 for the South African War, and of this he said £5,500,000 would be met from what he then estimated would be the surplus from last year. This surplus then, according to his Budget statement, was to form part of the provision for the cost of the war. Then, later on, he found he had a much larger surplus and consequently less deficit to meet in the coming year. He said at first, "I have got £5,500,000 and have £23,000,000 to meet, therefore the deficiency is £17,500,000." But then, finding himself possessed of a larger surplus by about £4,000,000, the deficit became £13,000,000, and not £17,000,000 as he had first estimated. What I want to make clear is that he treated the probable surplus of last year as part of the cost of the war. Then in March the right hon. Gentleman, dealing with the finances of this year, said he expected to have a deficiency of £20,000,000, but in consequence of the anticipation of payments to the revenue he found afterwards that though the deficit was £4,000,000 less in the preceding year it was £2,000,000 more in the present year, and the consequence was that altogether on the two years there was a deficit of £2,000,000 less than he had anticipated. Finally, in his statement in April on what may be taken as the corrected Estimates, the right hon. Gentleman said his position at the present time was that he had a margin of £1,127,000 and borrowing powers, not then employed, of £5,000,000. That was what he had in hand to deal with in April last. I want to know what has become of that £6,000,000? The right hon. Gentleman stated at that time, in April, that he had taken the odd million—not on any definite estimate, for it was difficult to make an estimate—he took the odd million as a margin, with the borrowing powers for £5,000,000, to meet contingencies that might arise after April; the return of troops, I suppose, among other contingencies, but specifically he included reserve of ammunition necessary in consequence of the war. Then up to this point we have got the right hon. Gentleman with his estimates, so far as he could make them, necessary to bring the war to its conclusion. He still adheres, I believe, to the belief that the whole thing will be wound up in September, therefore there is nothing in that which should alter his calculations. He having made his estimates for the war to end in September, and having possessed himself of the £6,000,000 balance, comes now and says he wants £13,000,000 more, of which £8,500,000 are for purposes of the war. Then, I say, we want explanations of that. I daresay my analysis of his statements may be incorrect, but that is what I make out to be the provision expended or not expended for the war. In the first place, there was a surplus of £10,000,000 in round figures, which would have been expended in reduction of debt, but was devoted to purposes of the war. Then there was £4,600,000 which would have gone to the Sinking Fund, but was suspended for the purposes of the war. Then there was the margin this year, upwards of £1,000,000; I think £1,125,000. Then there is taxation—"a small quantity of bread to a great deal of sack"—amounting in the financial yield to £14,000,000 including the arrears of the Income Tax to accrue next year. Then there were the Treasury Bills raised last year to the amount of £8,000,000 and renewed. Then there was the war loan of £30,000,000. Then there are the extra borrowing powers which he said he hoped he would not want to use, but he has these in hand. Now what does all this amount to? If you add these items together they come to not £60,000,000, but £71,000,000 as the provision in hand or employed for the war. On the top of that the right hon. Gentleman comes this week and asks in terms for £8,500,000 more in respect of the war. Now without some explanation there is confusion in the figures. From one sentence in the right hon. Gentleman's speech the other night I gather that he has got £6,000,000 to set against £13,000,000, and what we want to know is, why does he want £13,000,000 if he has £6,000,000 in hand? Why does he ask for the additional amount specifically for the war? Of course, what I have said is subject to any explanation the Chancellor of the Exchequer may give us; but I do submit that, when we have three financial statements difficult to reconcile, the House of Commons before giving a Third Reading to this Bill, if it is to have any control over the taxation, expenditure, and debt of the country, should have a clear statement laid before it showing exactly the estimated cost, the actual cost, and the provision made for the war. This ought not to be left to loose statements that my intellect, at all events, finds difficulty in reconciling one with the other, and I think this is not an unreasonable demand which I hope the right hon. Gentleman will consider. It is quite plain that somehow or other he wants more money. That is a position which in a state of war in several parts of the world is with a Chancellor of the Exchequer not an unusual one, and so with a little coy reluctance the right hon. Gentleman tells us he is going to borrow. It is said borrowing is as easy as lying. It is the easiest transaction in the world. The latter is said to be an abomination, but it is a very present help in time of trouble. What is true of the one is true of the other, and though borrowing may be an abomination, it is also a very present help to an Administration in time of trouble. The courage of our soldiers is as of yore, but the courage of our financiers is not of the same character. The cost of fighting against the Boers is as near as possible the same as when we fought against the Empire of Russia. Fifty years ago our politicians and statesmen were, of course, far inferior to those of the present day, but at all events they had some financial conscience and some financial courage, and out of that £70,000,000 they provided £35,000,000 from taxation. We, who are so much wiser and braver, provide only £14,000,000 from taxation; they provided half, we provide less than a quarter. Different times have brought different manners. Well, this is the situation. The people of this country are willing to give their lives and their happiness in this cause; but there is one thing Her Majesty's Government think they would not bear to give, and that is their money. There is one thing which will not bear the test of a dissolution, and that is, taxation. Then we come to the question of borrowing. The right hon. Gentleman wants to borrow £13,000,000, but he has £6,000,000 in hand, and the amount, one would suppose, should be £7,000,000, not £13,000,000. Assuming the borrowing, I approve his declaration that he will not make it a permanent borrowing, that he will "earmark it as a temporary borrowing." That shows that as far as circumstances admit the Chancellor of the Exchequer has a sound financial conscience. He tells us that he has done it for this purpose—"he desires to point out to the Chancellor of the Exchequer of that day that at the earliest moment he is to make a provision for the redemption of the loan." An excellent principle! I only hope he may be the Chancellor of the Exchequer of that day to act upon it. Then he says that "the provision for the redemption of the loan is to form a part of the first financial statement after the war in South Africa is happily over." That will be next April. The war will be over in September, and we shall have the financial statement as to the liquidation of the debt next April. How is it going to be provided according to his view? He says that he is sanguine of recovering the cost from the Transvaal. But the Transvaal contains two populations. Whom is he going to recover it from in the Transvaal? Does he expect to recover £40,000,000 from the Boers? I dare say the right hon. Gentleman would like to do it, but, no doubt, he is familiar with the old proverb that you cannot get more out of a cat than its skin; and if he thinks that in the present condition of the Boers in the Transvaal he is going to recover from them the money he borrows I think he will be disappointed, and I do not think it is a hopeful prospect to extend to the taxpayers of this country. Does he expect to get it from his friends the Uitlanders? No, the Uitlanders in these circumstances would be more satisfied with their late administration than with that which is to take its place. Then he thinks that because the mines are uninjured this money will be paid by the mine-owners. If he thinks that he is going to get out of them the money that has been spent on this war I must be excused for veiling my opinion on the subject in the learned language—*Credat Judæus Apella.* I have my own doubts as to the *Judæus* of to-day. The right hon. Gentleman next says that he wants to have liberty in borrowing. With his present majority he is a chartered libertine, and they will give him, I have no doubt, what he desires. I agree that in the present state of the money market he ought to be able to pay his money and take his choice. How much money he will have to pay when he makes his choice I do not think even the hon. Member for East Islington will be able to tell him. He will not touch Consols. He is quite right there. A year or two ago everyone was in a panic about the high price of Consols. It was said that there never was such a disaster as in having Consols at 114 and 115. There were alarmists who said that they would rise to 150, and then where should we be? As long as I was at all responsible for the finances of the country I could never see that the high value of the national credit was a public evil. We had all kinds of alarms about the Savings Banks, and it was said that if you get Consols up to this high price we must have a revolution in the Savings Banks legislation. This panic even affected my friends at the Treasury, and when it was necessary to justify the cutting down of the Sinking Fund, the excuse was the terrible price of the Consols in which you had to invest. Nothing more childish or more ridiculous was ever put forward in a solemn Government Memorandum. But I consoled my alarmist friends by saying, "Do not be too timid; you enjoy an Administration which will soon bring the value of Consols down." But speaking of Consols at 115, I suppose there are persons who believe that the thermometer is always to be at 93 degrees in the shade. I have great confidence myself in the vicissitudes of the seasons, and the right hon. Gentleman has been equal to the occasion. He has got Consols down to 97, and I have no doubt that in time he will rival the First Lord of the Admiralty, who succeeded in getting them down to 95. Then I think we shall hear no more of the Savings Banks Bill, which came to an untimely birth, and that there will be no difficulty in investing the savings of the country at a depreciated price in Consols. The right hon. Gentleman is quite right not to touch Consols. I do not think there is any man who can tell him what the price would be if he issued £13,000,000 in that stock to-morrow. Then he shies a little at the war loan. The right hon. Gentleman is a most generous antagonist, and he has testified to the value of the services that I rendered him with respect to the war loan. It is true that it was a confidential communication, but in these days of the new diplomacy the natural place which a Cabinet Minister chooses for a confidential communication is at the Mansion House in a speech addressed to the bankers. There he was good enough to recognise that by my contribution of £100 I had greatly supported the loan of £30,000,000, and that I had done it out of personal regard for the right hon. Gentleman and in my interest for the well-being of the country. Like a generous man he is grateful for small mercies, and I am glad that I should have rendered him that material assistance; and if I did good by stealth I do not blush to find it fame. I must confess, however, to the right hon. Gentleman that my object was not exclusively patriotic. I had another object. I wished to have my own personal barometer by which I could test the exact value of his financial arrangements. During the high tide of enthusiasm of this war I told him that I thought he had put the price too low, and that he might easily have got half a million more than he did. That was some weeks ago; but things have a good deal changed in the last few weeks. People do not seem to be so keen about the war loan as they were; and the loan which was at a high premium then is at a considerable discount now. I watch its fortunes with much interest, and the result of that investment; and I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that he had much better not try his war loan because it is impossible to say that if he was to issue £13,000,000 of a war loan he would be quite certain of issuing it at even 2½ premium. Again, I think he is right in the decision at which he has arrived. It is plain to anyone who understands these things that he knows very well that what he will have to do is to issue this money on floating debt of some kind or other, either Treasury bills or Exchequer bonds, or some short security of that kind. I know that the right hon. Gentleman agrees with me as to the evil of floating debt, because he and I together reduced the floating debt almost to a minimum. It stood in the time of the former Administration at £36,000,000. That is a great evil. When you come into a tight money market you have to pay a high price; and if he raises this money by £13,000,000 his floating debt will exceed £30,000,000. What price does he expect to get them at? There are gentlemen in the House who can tell him. His last price was 4 per cent. Does anyone say that that is the extreme price to which they are likely to rise? I do not profess to be an expert in these matters, but no one looking at the floating debt will be at any particular time. I do not know what estimate he has made for the interest which in future he is bound to raise on a floating debt upwards of £30,000,000. The right hon. Gentleman has spoken of Exchequer bonds. I am all for short currency of debt, but I cannot help recollecting that in the time of the Crimean War Exchequer bonds were raised with a view to liquidation, and as soon as the time came for liquidation they were renewed. I rest with confidence on the hope that if the right hon. Gentleman is responsible for the financial affairs of the country next April he will lay before the House a scheme for the liquidation of the debt which during the present year we have incurred. That is a matter, in my opinion, quite apart from any party interests, of the highest consequence to the welfare and the credit of this country. Passing from this, I should like to make a few remarks upon the finance of which this is the concluding chapter this session. It is very remarkable how the financial aspect of the war began. When the Government entered upon the war in October their estimate for its conduct and conclusion was ten millions of money—I forget the number of men, but I do not think it was more than 10,000. That was their idea of its requirements. I am taking the figures as given by the Under Secretary for War. In February it was an additional twelve millions; in March thirty-one and a half millions; and now to that we have the figure of seven and a half millions of the Under Secretary for War and the figure of eight and a half millions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, I am not at a question of half a million—I am looking at the figures as a test of the foresight of this Government as to the character of this war. They entered upon the war with a light heart and a lighter purse. In October they were satisfied they would have a military parade and a walk-over in the Republics for ten millions. It was not till February they discovered they must have twelve millions more. In the Budget in March the right hon. Gentleman put the gross cost of the war at twenty-three millions, towards which he had a surplus of five millions and a deficit of about seventeen millions.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That estimate was till the end of the financial year.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: Yes, the 31st of March. Singularly enough, in that very March, they wanted thirty-one and a half millions more, and now they want seven and a half millions more. All I can say is that these figures do not spell prescience as to the character of the war on which they had entered. I am not going to-day—under no circumstances do I think it at all necessary or expedient—to discuss the origin of the war. I doubt very much whether at this time, or even in this generation, a just judgment will be formed upon the war. It will be judged by those who live to see its results. Oh, you think you are going to be judged by a snatch dissolution. That is not the final judgment of a nation that has a future. I have lived to see another great war. I remember the time when, in the streets and in the music-halls, the Crimean War was as popular as this war. No man could be heard to aver against it, but half a century has elapsed, and the Prime Minister of England has avowed that at that time we put an equal sum of money upon the wrong horse. I say that, in the end, this war will be judged by its results, and the results of this war will depend upon the policy which attends its conclusion. That is all we can say to-day. All we can do is to contribute, as far as we can, to make that policy a wise policy. We are told—and that is all I will say upon the origin of the war, and it is unnecessary to discuss it under those circumstances—that the war was inevitable. That is a discovery which, oddly enough, was made after the event, and an inevitable Government has been the sport of inevitable circumstances. I am not myself a disciple of the inevitable in statesmanship. I am old-fashioned enough still to believe in the theory of causation, and I am not satisfied with a defence which rests upon a purblind fatalism. If a great enterprise is undertaken with means ludicrously inadequate, if there is a lamentable breakdown in your hospital system, or if military disasters are repeated in the presence of an inferior foe, I am not satisfied to be told, "We could not help it; it was inevitable." For my part, I hold with the great Roman satirist that "prudence and not fortune is the deity that guides the destinies of mankind." However, I admit it is of no use to attempt to argue with a bench of Predestinarians. They thought of disposing of this war for ten millions when they began. You would have thought from this estimate that they did not know anything about the resources of their antagonists; but they told us they knew all about their armaments, their Mausers, and their Krupp guns, and, in fact, they told us they knew they were armed to the teeth; yet ten millions was all they asked for for some six months after the commencement of the war. And in that war, for which ten millions were asked, I think the losses from all causes—killed, wounded, missing, and deaths from disease—have been as near as possible, as far as we can calculate, equal to the whole number of their foes. We are told sometimes—it is a favourite dilemma of the Colonial Secretary—that we must either approve the origin of the war and its prosecution, or oppose it altogether and refuse the means of carrying it on. Now that, with great respect to him, I will venture to say, is absolutely and wholly irrational. When your house is on fire it is not at all immaterial who set it on fire, but what you have got to do is to put it out. To say that you must approve the conduct of the person who set it on fire, or not put it out at all, or object to its being put out, does not seem to me to be a sensible proposition. In the same way, if the interests of the State are imperilled the first duty, in my opinion, of every man is to employ the means and to support the means that shall put an end to that danger. That is my view on this subject, and it is a view which since the war began, I have consistently advocated. The question of ultimate responsibility remains, but the duty of dealing with the present danger, of quenching the flames, and removing the peril to the country, is imperative. That is a policy which is just, reasonable, and perfectly consistent. The House of Commons have voted, and they will always vote, in my opinion, the money, whether by taxation or by borrowing, which is necessary to bring this war to the earliest finish. I know that the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary has charged those upon this bench with having been willing to sacrifice the interests of the country when they were responsible for the government of the country. He brought a charge against the Leader of the Opposition—a charge he found it necessary to retract, but for which he has not thought fit to apologise. That is the right hon. Gentleman's way. But I must observe that my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition was not the chief offender. He had the misfortune to have an "imperious colleague" under whose evil influence he was guilty of a crime that was never committed. That imperious colleague does not ask or expect any amends for that charge from the Colonial Secretary. He was good enough to say that the right hon. Gentleman had diminished the artillery of this country under the "compulsion of an imperious colleague who was seeking after popular Budgets." I am perfectly contented with the somewhat belated acknowledgment on the part of the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues that the Budgets of the late Administration were popular—Budgets that the right hon. Gentleman and his friends neglected no means, but employed every artifice, to defeat. What did the late Administration find? They found a deficient revenue, they found a neglected Navy, and a demand for an increase in the Navy, as soon as they took office. They met those demands not by the cheap expedient of borrowing, but by calling upon the people for great sacrifices in respect of taxation, and that was the popular Budget of an imperious colleague, who coerced my right hon. friend into a crime which it is admitted he never committed. These are the sort of reckless charges which are manufactured upon the eve of a dissolution. If you want an example of the sacrifice of public interests to popular Budgets you must go to Governments who in times of great surplus cut down the Sinking Fund, which should have gone to diminish the Debt, and who appropriated that which might have gone to the national defence to favourite classes whom they are willing to subsidise. That was not the conduct of our short Administration, with its feeble majority. We met the difficulties in which we found ourselves, we called upon the nation for great sacrifices; we carried in this House—yes, and they could not reject it in the House of Lords—a popular Budget upon the surplus of which the right hon. Gentleman and his friends have been living for five years. Therefore, for my part, I am quite willing to accept as amends for the unfounded imputation he cast upon me his recognition that it was a popular Budget. I have no desire in this matter to introduce party recriminations. In the interests of the credit of the public life of this country I do enter, and I will enter, a stern remonstrance against this habit for electioneering purposes of inventing false charges and then declining to apologise for them. I am afraid that is a practice which is becoming more common than it used to be when I first entered political life. It is part of the new diplomacy. I am not an admirer of the new diplomacy, especially that particular feature of it. Now I turn to a matter which is more satisfactory and in which we can all agree, and that is the courage, the devotion, the self-sacrifice which every class of the subjects of the Queen in this country, and in her dominions beyond the seas, have shown in the trials to which they have been subjected in this war. Those people who believe that a long period of prosperity and peace depraves the fibre of a nation have seen that theory belied by the events of the past year. I have heard it said, and I am not sure it was not said by a member of Her Majesty's Government, that it was worth while to have the war in order to enjoy this spectacle. I do not go so far as that, I should not even be willing to set my own house on fire in order to see how my household would behave. I should be quite satisfied to trust to them without it. I think that is a poor consolation for all the suffering, the loss of life, and the sorrow which have been caused. I cannot, looking at this the final estimate of this session, fail to look back to where we were this time twelve months ago. If the estimates and, still more, the sad records of this war could have been before this House in August of last year I for one shall never part with the belief that there would have been a different temper and tone in dealing with the difficulties of that period, and that the result might have been very different from what it was. I am not one of the disciples of predestinarianism. What was the condition of this country in last August? A condition in which every man could rejoice. You had an unexampled trade, you had public credit high, you had the condition of the people in the matter of wages good, you had the necessaries and the comforts of life cheap, you had a revenue overflowing beyond the dreams of the avarice even of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. You had a surplus of ten millions, from which with its prospects you had the expectation of great relief to the people of this country. You might have granted them many a boon; you might have granted them relief from taxation; you might have granted old-age pensions. Such was the progress of the people of this nation as the result of fifty years practically unbroken peace. I know there are people who advocate war and annexation. Sometimes it is in the cause of Christianity, sometimes in the cause of civilisation; and when those hypocrisies do not take, then it is for the good of trade. I have had some experience in this matter, and watched it very closely, and my conclusion has been that war has never been the foster-mother of trade. We have heard from the President of the Board of Trade that he anticipates a decline in the trade of this country. I believe that that is borne out by the state of things at present in Lancashire. I have spoken of public credit. Nothing strengthens public credit so much as the knowledge that you are making constant provision for the reduction of the debt. In the last six months you have cut off provision for the reduction of the debt. In fact, you have cut off fourteen millions with old and new Sinking Funds of money which would naturally have gone towards the reduction of the debt. That has to be added to the achievements of two Tory Governments—I beg pardon, Unionist Governments; it is the same thing—who had already depleted the Sinking Fund to the extent of four millions—we know in whose interest. You have borrowed forty-three millions of money, and by this Bill you add thirteen millions more. That is the change which has come over the situation and the nation within twelve months, and now we are told that these are what are called the final estimates—the winding-up estimates. The right hon. Gentleman says he has taken more than he wants; and therefore it is to be assumed that this is all we are to be asked for. Is there any man who believes that these are the final estimates? He must be very little versed in the precedents of the past or in the probabilities of the future. He says that he is going to leave in South Africa 45,000 men, of which 30,000 is for a permanent garrison. The first observation I make upon that is that if you are going to shut up for a long time 30,000 men in South Africa, you must raise 30,000 more men in England; but there is no estimate for that. And there is not merely the question of the estimate of the money, but the question of the enlistment of the men, and of that we hear nothing. As to the garrison in South Africa, I do not offer any opinion on that subject. I know that that territory is nearly twice as big as the United Kingdom, and 30,000 men in the midst of a discontented population will not be a very large proportion. If you are going to add to disfranchisement confiscation, then, in my opinion, it will be very inadequate; and if you are going to put on the top of that an attempt to levy thirty millions or forty millions of money upon that community, then the tax-collectors will want more than 30,000 men. It is not merely the money you have borrowed and the money you have spent, but we are told that there are going to be great claims for compensation. Who is going to pay the claims for compensation? We have heard nothing of that from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He talks about recovering the compensation to be paid to all those loyalists who have suffered in the war. Who is going to pay it? We ought to hear something of that. But then there are the other odd 15,000 men who are not to be brought home. Who are they? Are they the persons who are to become settlers there out of the military forces? What is your authority for believing that there are 15,000 men who have had experience of South Africa, and who desire to remain there? We should like to have some explanation on that subject. I have talked to many, and I have read the letters of many, and the one chorus is, "Thank God we have done our duty to our country, and we hope we shall never see South Africa again." That is my experience on that point. But are these 15,000 men to have any support given to them? What are they to have for remaining if they choose to remain there? Are you going to give them confiscated land, or are you going to give them money, and, if so, how much money? Why in this estimate now put before us are we not told what is to be the cost of settling these 15,000 men? There again it depends upon the policy of your settlement. Do you believe that there is any English Yeoman who will allow himself to be placed down in South Africa in the midst of a hostile population alone? There are better places for him to go to than that. Of course, if you have a policy of confiscation, then there will be some inducement to the men to remain; but, in any case, you ought to give us some account of who these 15,000 men are, what they are to receive, and what is to be the inducement for them to settle. There is another thing which is not provided for in this final estimate. We are told that as the result of this war there is to be a great military consultation and a great military reorganisation. Will that cost nothing? The principle, so far as I have seen it, of this future military organisation is that each military man has his own plan which he considers the most perfect plan, and insists upon its adoption. The one thing they are all agreed upon is to denounce any check upon it, especially on the part of the Treasury. It is like the man who had got a watch and insisted upon it having no balance, with the result that it ran down at once. When you talk of final estimates of this kind it is perfectly obvious what is contemplated. I have already indicated that you must raise 30,000 more men to take the place of the garrison that is to remain in South Africa, and the demands which are made for military organisation may be of an indefinite character. Therefore I cannot myself accept for a moment the estimates and the Bill we have now before us as closing the capital account of the war in South Africa. Well, Sir, unfortunately, we are upon a review of our financial situation, and there is another matter—I can hardly call it a small cloud rising in the East—for which a provision of £3,000,000 is made in this Bill.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: There is a large margin.

*Sir W. HARCOURT: Well, I should like to ask, what is your margin? We have not been told what that margin is. You had £3,000,000, and you ask for £8,500,000 for the war in South Africa; that is £11,500,000, and then you have got £1,000,000 additional for the reserve of stores, and so on. If that is a proper calculation it fills up your £13,000,000. However, the right hon. Gentleman will explain that, because it is perfectly unintelligible as it stands. At all events, we have done a very formidable thing. We have opened a new war account in China. Into what that trouble may or will develop no man can say. I do not blame the Government for not declaring their policy in this case, because the facts are not known on which any policy can be founded. That the besieged Ministers and their dependents must be rescued if they be alive, as we all hope they are, everybody will of course agree, and that those by whom they have been attacked and some of them murdered, must be punished if they can be discovered. Beyond that, the future is dark and gloomy. We have interests in China equal to, if not greater, than those we have in South Africa, and never was there a time when it was more desirable or necessary for the good of this Empire that we should have our hands free, and be able to make the influence of England felt in those regions as it ought to be felt. Never were we in a position more difficult to make that influence felt. We are in the position of a man with his arms tied behind his back. Our resources are greatly restricted. We have had recourse already to troops from India in Africa, and we have been obliged to have recourse to Indian troops in China. That is, in my opinion, a most mischievous practice for the interests of our Indian Empire. By adopting it you place before the Indian people this dilemma: either you are keeping an unnecessary number of troops in India at the expense of the people of India, who cannot afford it—and that is an injustice—or you are not keeping an unnecessary force; and then by removing a necessary force from India you are exposing her to perils to which she ought not to be exposed. Therefore, not now only, but in former days, I have always protested against the use of Indian troops for purposes that are not Indian. Well, you have this question of China to be solved by the concert of Europe. We know something of the concert of Europe. Up to this time the representatives of the concert of Europe at Peking have been occupied in nothing but competitive rivalry to see which could possess themselves of the largest fragment of the Chinese Empire, and then you are surprised that this is resented by the Chinese people. The Great Powers — I am speaking of them all — assumed that China was a corpse, and around that carcase the eagles were gathered together; but that corpse has proved to be most dangerously alive. It is idle to speculate where we know so little, but it is clear enough that the ultimate questions which may arise in China may be more formidable than any we have had to meet in South Africa. But I will not hazard an opinion upon it. It may be the £3,000,000 provided for dealing with China will be about as adequate as the £10,000,000 you have provided for South Africa, and this may be followed by demands equally great. But behind and beyond all these things there is a matter of greater gravity than any to which I have yet referred. Statesmen of the highest authority and character have been impressing upon our minds over and over again this fact—that we are the best hated people in the world. Not by the Governments, but by the nations, which is a much more serious thing. In a speech of the Prime Minister to the Primrose League he represented to them that so great and so combined was this hatred that we might at any time be exposed to an ugly rush upon our shores from the nations of Europe. Such a statement as that has never in the history of this country been made by the Prime Minister of England. I do not say whether it is true or not; but that statement, whatever it is, is rather an unpleasant consequence of the *régime* of Imperialism which we have enjoyed for five years. We were told by the gentleman who is now Viceroy of India on this Government acceding to office that the mere fact of Lord Salisbury taking charge of the Foreign Office would produce a great calm in Europe; that everybody would be satisfied and everybody would be happy; that there would be a millennium, in which the lion would lie down with the lamb. But at the end of five years the Prime Minister comes forward and says we are the object of the combined hatred of Europe. And what is his remedy for that state of affairs? It is to be brought about by the Primrose League, who are to arm with rifles the peasantry of this country. That does not entirely reassure me against this syndicate of European hatred.

> "Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis
> Tempus eget."

That is all the remedy for this colossal danger which is offered by the Prime Minister. Nothing could be more childish or more puerile. Why, Sir, if it is true that this danger exists, you must quadruple your Army and you must quadruple your Navy. What does it mean? It means that if each of four of the Powers builds an ironclad, you must build four, or if each adds a *corps d'armée* to its land forces, you must add four. The remarkable thing is that when the Prime Minister made this declaration he said he really could not understand the reason for that hatred. He ought to understand it. It has grown up under his auspices. "It was inevitable." That, I suppose, is the explanation given by the Government. There is another authority, greatly versed in foreign affairs, who holds the same opinion of the danger and of the universality of the hatred. Lord Rosebery, however, knows the cause of that hatred, and he has stated it in a celebrated speech. This is what he said, and it is deserving of the attention of the House and of the country—

> "The British Empire needs peace. For the last twenty years, and still more for the last twelve, you have been laying your hands"

—observe these words—

> "with almost frantic eagerness on every tract of territory adjacent to your own or which from any point of view you thought it desirable to take. That has had two results—I dare say it is quite right; but it has had two results. The first result is that you have excited to an almost intolerable degree the envy of other colonising nations, and in the cases of many empires, or many countries, or several countries rather, which were formerly friendly to you you can reckon, in consequence of your colonial policy, right or wrong—and I am supposed to be rather a sinner in that respect—not on their active benevolence but on their active malevolence."

That is the reason of the hatred given by Lord Rosebery. He then goes into a careful calculation as to what has been the addition of territory in the last twelve years by the process which he described as a process of "frantic eagerness to lay hands on every tract of country adjacent to your own," and he says it has resulted in "undigested Empire." That is a capital phrase. Nothing affects the body corporal more than undigested food, and the body politic with an enormous mass of undigested Empire knows no repose and enjoys no health. It is "undigested Empire" which he calculates has amounted "in the last twelve years to twenty-two areas as large as that of the United Kingdom itself"; and this is the very sound conclusion at which he arrived—

> "That marks out for many years a policy from which you cannot depart if you would. You may be compelled to draw the sword—I hope you may not be, but the foreign policy of Great Britain until this territory is consolidated, filled up, settled, and civilised must inevitably be a policy of peace."

Sir W. Harcourt.

That was spoken four years ago. That was before unconsidered trifles like the Soudan and the two Republics were added to the "undigested Empire." In these sentiments I entirely agree. Is it not a strange thing that these great Empires should be possessed with such a lust of extended dominion, and that the greater they are the more hungry they seem to be for more? What Lord Rosebery calls "frantic eagerness" for acquisition of territory, and what Lord Salisbury rebuked as "the desire to fight everybody and take everything"—a desire which, he said, was the ruin of great Empires—seems to be growing upon the nations of Europe. What is the consequence? Their resources are strained to the uttermost, they leave no margin for dealing with the duties which belong to their dominion, the great possessions they already have are starved and mortgaged for these further acquisitions. Every nation seems to regard that which its neighbour acquires as wrong to itself, and the consequence is that state of active malevolence which is referred to in the passage which I have read. The interests of what, after all, is but a small and distant fraction of our vast Empire have absorbed all our resources in men; they have increased our taxation; they have accumulated our debt. What have they done for us? They have left us but a very narrow margin for dealing with the great possibilities of danger in China; they have compelled us to refuse, what in my opinion we desired and ought to have given, assistance to our Indian subjects. These are the results—I am not speaking of the present war, I am speaking of this land hunger, this craving for acquisition when you have not settled, developed, or done justice to the territories you already possess, and you are not able to do justice to the people to whom you are responsible at home. Is it not well to-day that in reviewing the situation in which we find ourselves those who are responsibl for the fortunes of this nation, instead o inflaming popular passions and stimulatin a spirit of wild and grasping ambition should impress upon the public mind th great truth, that of all the interests o this vast and glorious Empire, the greatest interest is peace?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Sir, we have listened to a very remarkable address, which reminds us of the old days when the right hon. Gentleman, in his best ighting form, used to delight us, although we might disagree with him, with his frequent interposition in our debates. Achilles has emerged from his tent, perhaps not entirely satisfied with the conduct of affairs by Agamemnon in his absence, and for the first time in my recollection for seven years the right hon. Gentleman has expressed his cordial approval of, and agreement with, a speech of Lord Rosebery's. The right hon. Gentleman, in the exercise of his right, has made this debate the occasion for a general review of the history of the country during, I think, almost the whole of our term of office. I had imagined that he might take exception to some such minor point as the mode by which I propose to raise the loan which I ask the House to sanction, but on that he had nothing more to say than that—which I heard with regret—in his little effort to aid Her Majesty's Government in their policy in South Africa he had, unfortunately, missed his market. But the right hon. Gentleman naturally and properly devoted a very large portion of the earlier part of his speech to inquiring as to the expenditure upon the South African War, and the means by which we propose to provide for it. On that point I hope presently to satisfy the House. But I think the main object of his speech was not financial. The right hon. Gentleman told us, to my great astonishment, that he had no desire to introduce party recriminations into this debate, and yet, within five minutes after that agreeable announcement, he made the Loan Bill a vehicle for a personal attack upon my right hon. friend the Secretary for the Colonies, who is always, perhaps not unnaturally, the object which all the sections of the party opposite unite in attacking.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: I defended, myself, an attack on the right hon Gentleman by an imperious colleague.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: It struck me that there was something in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman of that very invention for party purposes of which he accused my right hon. friend. He told us that he would not discuss the origin of the South African War. And what did he at once proceed to do? In a manner to which we are very well accustomed he begged the whole question of the origin of the South African War. He took it for granted that we began it.

*SIR W. HARCOURT: I did not say that.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: What the right hon. Gentleman said was that the war was undertaken by us with means ludicrously inadequate, that we in October entered upon the war with an estimate quite insufficient. But we did not begin the war at all. It was begun by the invasion of Her Majesty's territories by the Transvaal and Free State Governments, and I demur entirely to the mode in which the right hon. Gentleman, while professing to decline to discuss the origin of the war, begged the whole question as to the responsibility for it. He ridiculed the idea that the war was inevitable. Let him ask the hon. Baronet the Member for the Berwick Division of Northumberland, or the right hon. Member for East Wolverhampton, who sit on each side of him, what their views are on that subject. There are some very near him who believe it was inevitable. He charged us with undertaking the war with inadequate means. We did not undertake it at all. If our means were inadequate at the commencement it was because we desired and believed in peace. Ths right hon. Gentleman said the war would be judged by its results. Yes, it will be. But he will not be the historian on whose history the country will judge it. Sir, the right hon. Gentleman has taken this opportunity, while disclaiming party advantage, of making a pure electioneering speech from the "Little England" point of view. What was his argument? It amounted to this:—"You have thrown away millions on an unnecessary war." Let the country judge of the necessity. "By doing this you have tied your hands so that you cannot defend the interests of the country in China, where we have greater interests, perhaps, than even in South

Africa." The right hon. Gentleman forgot—perhaps he does not know—that although we have 200,000 men engaged in South Africa, our Navy is free, and there are more troops at the present time in this country than there have been for many years past. What is the policy the right hon. Gentleman would recommend to the country? It is the policy of scuttling out of all our difficulties whenever and wherever they arise. What is the bribe he holds out to the people? This, that "if you do scuttle out of these difficulties and do not provide for a war which is a necessary war if we are to maintain our Empire, then we will reduce your taxation, we will reduce your debt, we will give you old-age pensions, we will subscribe five millions to the sufferers by famine in India—we will do all these things." That is the speech of a right hon. Gentleman who disclaims any party purpose! I will not attempt to go into that part of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman beyond the observations which I have already made. But when the right hon. Gentleman asks me what provision I have made for the war in China, and says I have provided no more than three millions, I venture to refer him to what I said a few days ago on that very subject. I then said the estimate of my right hon. friend the Under Secretary for War of the expenditure which might be entailed upon us by the present condition of affairs in China was three millions. I told the Committee, in introducing this Bill, that I was asking for a considerable margin of borrowing power beyond what was required by the Estimate before the House—to the extent, indeed, of six millions. Out of that six millions I intimated at the time, and repeat now, that I consider a large portion is asked for for possibilities—I will not put them higher—in China, in the promotion of the policy which I indicated to the House.

SIR W. HARCOURT: You appropriate three millions for China, and now you say you have a margin of seven millions. You say you have £8,500,000 for what I may call South African purposes, added to the £3,000,000 in China. That is £11,500,000. Then you have besides £500,000 additional stores. What is your margin?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am afraid I have not made myself clear to the right hon. Gentleman. He asked me to place before the House a full statement as to the estimated cost of the war in South Africa and the ways and means which we had provided to meet it. I will endeavour to reply to that question, and I hope that if I do not make myself clear he will let me know as I go on. I may remind the House that last autumn we voted, in Supply, a grant for the war in South Africa of £10,000,000, and last February £13,000,000—£23,000,000 in all. Besides that there was expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund for interest on the Treasury bills for £8,000,000—namely, £217,000—making a total expenditure on the South African War last year of £23,217,000. I am speaking all through of estimated expenditure because, as the right hon. Gentleman will understand, it is too soon to talk of actual expenditure. At the commencement of this year Supply was granted by the House for the purpose of the war of £37,797,000. Besides that there was charged on the Consolidated Fund interest on Treasury war bills £250,000 and £619,000 interest on the war loan—total £869,000—making in all, in the current year, exclusive of the present Supplementary Estimate, £38,666,000. These two sums added together make £61,883,000. Then, in addition to that, we have to add the Supplementary Estimate recently voted of £7,440,000, making £69,323,000. I must ask the House to bear in mind that these are estimates and not actual expenditure. Now, Sir, I will take the other side of the account and show how that has been and is to be raised. In the first place, the surplus of last year was £9,335,000. Then the difference between the total revenue and ordinary expenditure of the present year, taking into consideration the suspension of the Sinking Fund, amounts to £16,125,000, making the total sum raised by taxation for the purposes of the war in the two years of £25,460,000. By Treasury bills last winter we provided eight millions, and out of the proceeds of the war loan £28,423,000, altogether £36,423,000; by Treasury Bills recently issued, under the powers given us by the War Loan Act, we have provided £2,000,000 more; and out of the supplementary war loan which I am now asking for we shall provide the balance of £5,440,000, or a total provided by taxation towards the war, so far, of £25,460,000, and by loan £43,863,000, making a total amount of £69,323,000, balancing the other side of the account so far as the estimates for the South African War are concerned. Then I have left £1,127,000, the unused balance of the war loan; £3,000,000, unused borrowing powers under the War Loan Act; and £7,560,000, borrowing powers under the present Bill, out of which to provide for three millions estimated for China, for a considerable margin which I will put at four millions for the same purpose, for a million and a quarter for Naval Supplementary Estimates — for £200,000 for the Ashanti Expedition and £1,090,000 Supplementary War Estimates not directly connected with the war; besides other minor Supplementary Estimates. I think I did not sufficiently discriminate between these two parts of the estimate of the Under Secretary for War which related to the expenditure on the South African War and expenditure for purposes not directly connected with the war. That £1,090,000 was for permanent huts for soldiers in this country, for barracks at Khartoum, additional payments to Volunteers for camping in England this summer, and some payments for barracks in Mauritius. Then I went on to explain to the House that I had a second need for asking for a large margin of borrowing powers in this Bill. Borrowing powers of £7,000,000, plus the £5,000,000 of borrowing powers which I took in March and did not utilise in March, and the £1,000,000 of surplus on the war loan proceeds, would have made up the £13,000,000 to which the Supplementary Estimates of this month amounted. I am sorry I cannot explain this more clearly.

SIR W. HARCOURT: But £3,000,000 for China, £7,000,000 of borrowing powers for South Africa now, and £6,000,000 of old borrowing powers, make more than £13,000,000. Will the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table an official Paper giving the total amount of the moneys which have been raised out of taxation, or surpluses, or loans, or from any source, and the purposes to which they have been attributed? Such a Paper we ought to have, and if he will give it to us it will be much more satisfactory.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am perfectly willing to do that. It shall be done at once. But I would explain that, in addition to the extra borrowing powers for £5,000,000 given last March, and to the £1,000,000 unexpended out of the proceeds of the war loan, I have deliberately asked in this Bill for £6,000,000 borrowing powers beyond the amount of the total Estimates of the year and the Supplementary Estimates which have been presented, including, of course, in that sum all those other charges besides the South African War. With regard to that war, the figures I gave as to the total cost and the means by which it has been met afford a clear statement. I have asked for the extra borrowing powers not merely on account of affairs in China, but also because it is necessary for me to have at my command some temporary means of borrowing while the revenue is accruing and the proceeds of the war loan are accruing.

SIR W. HARCOURT: That you will only want for six months.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Yes, it is to finance the Exchequer during that time. The right hon. Gentleman has blamed me very much on the ground that the proportion of expenditure on the war borne by taxation is very small when compared with what was raised by our ancestors by taxation at the time of the Crimean War. The right hon. Gentleman says we have only raised £14,000,000 of the cost by taxation, while for a war costing about as much our ancestors raised one-half by taxation. I entirely demur to the contention that we have provided only £14,000,000 out of taxation.

SIR W. HARCOURT: Additional taxation.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: If you devote a surplus out of existing taxation to the war, it is as much raised by taxation as if it were additional taxation. The financial doctrine of the right hon. Gentleman is one which I am surprised should be suggested to the House. During the Crimean War, in the year 1855, at just about the same period of the year as this, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, was obliged to bring in Supplementary Estimates for more than £6,000,000 in addition to the original Estimates of the cost of the war for that year. How did he provide for them? Exactly as I do—by borrowing on Exchequer bills. Therefore I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman is quite fair in the comparison which he has attempted to draw between our financial cowardice and the financial courage of our predecessors at the time of the Crimea. The right hon. Gentleman then referred to the prospect of recovering from the Transvaal any part of the cost of the war, and he rather suggested to the House that I had held out hopes that the whole cost of the war would be so provided for. I have never said anything of the kind. What I have said is that when the war is over, we should obtain from the taxation of the Transvaal a substantial contribution to the cost. The right hon. Gentleman seems to think that that will be impossible. I do not think so, and he did not think so last March.

SIR. W. HARCOURT: I hoped it would be possible.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The right hon. Gentleman not only expressed a hope; he concurred most strongly in my idea that it should be done. I entirely admit that there will be other charges on the Transvaal besides this. There will be the charge for compensation for the injury done to the property of loyalists in Natal and the Cape, and that is a charge which should undoubtedly come before any contribution to this country for the cost of the war. But in my belief there will be means for a substantial contribution for both purposes; and beyond that it is impossible to go now. Then the right hon. Gentleman asks why we do not provide in the present Estimates for the cost of settling some of the troops now in South Africa, and for the military reorganisation which he anticipates when the war concludes.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I asked for an estimate.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Obviously these are matters which do not relate to the present time. They are under the consideration of the Government now, and I dare say, whoever may have the duty of making proposals with regard to the Estimates next year, will have to call the attention of the House to both these subjects. But that they should be included in a Supplementary Estimate for the present year is impossible.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I did not ask for that.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Then I do not understand his object in asking for an estimate.

SIR W. HARCOURT: I was looking to the future.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The right hon. Gentleman looked to the future and to the past, and to both from a purely electioneering point of view. I am perfectly ready to lay on the Table the statement which the right hon. Gentleman desires, because the matter is extremely complicated by the fact that it was necessary for me to bring in my Budget one month and a half earlier than usual in order to anticipate as far as possible anticipatory payments of taxation, and to make the provision required at the moment for the expenditure of the war. The right hon. Gentleman would have been the first to blame me if I had asked for that provision without making a full financial statement. That was the reason of a Budget which could not include an accurate statement of the revenue and expenditure of the previous year. But now the right hon. Gentleman blames me for bringing in fragmentary budgets. The circumstances made it impossible for me to do anything else. As soon as the financial year had concluded I made a full statement of the actual revenue and expenditure, and now I have placed before the House Supplementary Estimates, which are necessary in time of war, for the expenditure as far as we can foresee it; and I have explained the measures by which we intend to provide for that expenditure. I hope that the principle of the Bill will commend itself to the House, and that it may now be read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule:—

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) moved the omission of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act. He said that he protested on the previous night against this proposal, and he was probably out of order in raising the general question as to whether this was the kind of Bill which should be introduced in an expiring laws measure. As he understood the object of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, it was to prolong and continue Acts which, when passed, were intended to be of a temporary character. Accordingly they assumed that only Acts of a non-contentious character were mainly concerned. But supposing there was a very contentious Land Act passed for Ireland of a temporary character, would the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary be within his rights, or would the House tolerate for a moment the right hon. Gentleman including such an Act in the Expiring Laws Bill? His contention was that the right hon. Gentleman was departing in this case from the whole scope, object, and purpose of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and that he was passing by a side wind into law an Act which ought to be brought in as a separate measure. That observation applied with particular force to an Act of this kind. On every single occasion until within the last two or three years when an Act of this character had been introduced the Government of the day had made an essential feature of their measure that it was to be of a temporary character. The reason was very obvious. To this Act he objected not only on principle, but because it abrogated the fundamental rights and liberties of the nation. Under this Act in Ireland the right of bearing arms, which was the fundamental right of the citizens of any free nation, was practically, if not entirely destroyed, or surrounded with conditions which amounted practically to a destruction. Whenever an Act of this kind had been introduced into the House on previous occasions it had generally been described as a Coercion Act. He remembered when this Act was introduced in 1880, at least some three months were occupied in passing it, and now an Act which took three months in 1881 was to be stuck at the end of this Act just as if it was an unimportant measure instead of being an Act of first class magnitude. In England every man could practically bear arms, which was a right given to every citizen by the Constitution. So much was this the case that, at a time when a large number of accidents and crimes were attributed to the indiscriminate bearing of arms and the purchase of revolvers, a Bill which was brought into this House to interfere with the sale of revolvers was scouted out as an infringement of the rights of British subjects. Could it be said with any pretence to decency or common sense that an Act which abrogated this constitutional right was a non-contentious Act which ought to be placed at the end of this Expiring Laws Continuance Bill? Under this measure the police in Ireland had the right to enter the house of any citizen from sunrise to sunset. The House of Commons had so far mitigated the severity of this Act as to give the right to a man in Ireland to bear arms, provided he could satisfy the magistrates that he was fit to exercise that right. There were only two justices of the peace who had that right to give this certificate of immunity and good citizenship, and they were both the employees and dependents of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary and the Irish Government. It was rather too late for him to renew the old controversy about resident magistrates, but they were officials depending for their appointment, dismissal, and pension on the goodwill of the Government which they served. Outside Ireland there was no civilised country which had such a mixture of judicial functions and official dependents as Ireland. In 1881 the reason given for the passing of this Act was that there was a considerable state of disturbance in Ireland. No doubt that was so at the time, although he felt that those disturbances were largely augmented and aggravated by the coercion measures which had been previously passed by Parliament. But that state of disturbance had disappeared, for Ireland was now one of the most peaceable, tranquil, and law-abiding countries in the world. When the Coercion Act was renewed in 1881, there were a number of meetings taking place in the north of Ireland, where the speakers were of the same political conviction as the Attorney General and the Chief Secretary. People appeared at those meetings armed with revolvers, and he read in the newspapers that the Orangemen and loyalists at those meetings had a favourite method of signifying their assent and approval by firing a regular shower of revolver shots.

Sir JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.): No, no.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said the hon. Gentleman negatived that statement, but he did not think the hon. Member was present at the meeting to which he referred. If he was present, evidently certain features were kept from his knowledge. At several meetings revolvers were fired off just as if the people were dealing with property owned by the Boers.

Sir JAMES HASLETT: What I wish to correct is that I do not admit that it was an Orange meeting. I admit that revolvers were fired at some meetings.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said that what he had in his mind was a meeting at which Lord Rossmore was present. Whether that could be called an Orange meeting or not he did not know. But whether they were Conservative or Orange meetings, the fact remained that at those meetings a large number of revolver shots were fired.

Sir JAMES HASLETT: Both at those meetings and at Nationalist meetings the same system of revolver firing was practised.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR replied that he was glad his hon. friend had made that correction. As a matter of fact, the reason given in the debate which took place when this measure was renewed was that there had been a large amount of revolver firing, and it was the loyalists' meetings which were mainly mentioned. He denied the proposition that revolver firing took place at Nationalist meetings. What were the facts with regard to the north of Ireland? The judicial bench was practically in the hands of one political party, which had the power, to a large extent, of dealing with this question of bearing arms. Therefore, a bench packed by Orange magistrates took good care that only good, sound loyalists and Orangemen had the right of bearing arms. The north of Ireland appeared to an ordinary southern Irishman something like a foreign country, because no Orangeman attended political meetings without his revolver in his pocket to use as an argument against such a small matter as a discussion upon the franchise. He had been at meetings in the north of Ireland to discuss a reduction of the franchise, and the question was considered so horrible that the market square was cleared by armed Orangemen, with the countenance of the authorities. These were the arguments used in former years, but they did not apply now, for even Orangemen were getting civilised and educated. The revolver was no longer considered—except in the city of Belfast—as a necessary, useful, and effective political argument. Was this Bill intended to disarm the Orangemen of Ireland? The right hon. Gentleman would not have the courage to declare that this Act was impartially administered to all sections of the population of Ireland.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. G. W. Balfour): I have no evidence to the contrary.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said that the right hon. Gentleman had learned that a judicious fit of blindness and a judicious attack of deafness were most valuable occasionally. This Act had always been unfairly and partially administered between the two sections of the people in Ireland. He had seen in the papers that among many of the proposals for the settlement of the South African question one was that there should be a general disarmament. Even in the most jingo quarters the proposal that the Boers, after the war, should be disarmed was received with doubt and hesitation. But there was no doubt in the matter in Ireland. Lord Salisbury had recently drawn a terrible picture of Europe united in hatred and anger against this country, and had declared that the country's salvation lay in the establishment of rifle clubs. Was it not ridiculous and absurd to talk about the establishment of rifle clubs when the people of Ireland were denied the right of carrying arms? Even in South Africa after a bloody and costly and terrible war the policy of disarmament against the men who had been in arms against this country was regarded with doubt and dislike. At a time when they were talking about establishing rifle clubs in England, Scotland, and Wales, they were asking the House to pass a Bill to deprive every citizen of Ireland of the right of bearing arms at all. What answer could the right hon. Gentleman give? If rifle clubs were the salvation of England, why should they be the destruction of Ireland? The Under Secretary for War was asked by the hon. Member for Kilkenny whether the additional facilities for the arming, drilling, and enrolment of Volunteers were to be extended to Ireland as well as to other parts of the country, and, not having had a Dublin Castle training, the Under Secretary answered with damaging frankness that there were certain formal and technical difficulties in the way of extending to the people of Ireland those blessed rifle clubs and those sanctified Volunteer facilities which were to be given to England, Scotland, and Wales. The real answer was that they were afraid of extending to the people of Ireland any of those personal liberties which they so freely bestowed and which they never dared to take away from the people of this country. If it was necessary now for them to carry out the disarming of the Irish people by this Bill, it must mean that the right hon. Gentleman had failed in his policy, and that they believed that the hatred and contempt for the present administration of Ireland was just as strong now as at any other former period. He wished the Chief Secretary God-speed on his approaching election campaign, coupled with the expression of a hope that the right hon. Gentleman would inform his constituents at Leeds that he was still afraid to give Ireland, after five years of his rule, the right of bearing arms.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, to leave out lines 25 and 26."—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR said the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool commenced his speech by laying down the broad principle that the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill only contained Acts which were not of a contentious character. What were the facts of the case? The hon. Member spoke as if this Act had been continued in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill for the first time during the present year.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: I distinctly said the opposite.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR replied that he did not catch that expression. The hon. Member had argued that he was departing from a well-recognised and established custom in placing this measure in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: But I alluded to the fact that it had been before the House several times.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR said he would tell the House how many times this House had set up as a precedent the inclusion of this particular Act in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and that precedent had not been set by a Unionist Government, for it was set up in

1894 by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs. It was included in the year 1894 and 1895. He had had to defend this Bill ever since. He had defended it in 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899, and he had to do it again this year. How under those circumstances could it reasonably be maintained that by including an Act which had been included for the last six or seven years they were doing an outrageous thing? The hon. Gentleman went on to use very strong language, and he said that this Act was an abrogation of the fundamental rights of a nation. He thought the hon. Member himself was hardly aware how very easy it was in Ireland to obtain a licence for the carrying of arms. He would give the number of licences which had been applied for and the number which had been refused during the last year—1899. The licences granted amounted to 5,033, the licences refused to 230, and licences revoked ten. The searches only amounted to seven. It was perfectly easy for any person to get arms for a legitimate purpose. When the hon. Gentleman objected to the Act being administered by resident magistrates, he must have forgotten the circumstances under which that provision was introduced, otherwise he would have felt that his argument was destroyed. In 1886, when the right hon. Gentleman who at present represented Montrose introduced a Bill to continue the Police Preservation Act of 1881, an Amendment was introduced to provide that the court of summary jurisdiction under the fifth section should consist of two or more resident magistrates. That Amendment, which was moved by an Irish Member, the hon. Member for the City of Cork, was agreed to by the whole House. The hon. Gentleman, in support of that motion, urged that local justices could not be depended upon to act impartially, and the hon. Member for East Mayo pointed out that it would be better to have the Act administered by skilled officials, whose action could be reviewed by the House of Commons. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool would see, therefore, that his contention was not correct. Had it been so the Amendment would not have been moved by the hon. Member for Cork, nor would it have been supported by the hon. Member for East Mayo.

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR admitted that he was not aware of the facts which the right hon. Gentleman had referred to, but at the same time he asked to be allowed to point out that the Bill of 1886 was brought in at a time when there were disturbances in the north of Ireland. He quite agreed with the hon. Members for Cork and East Mayo that it was safer to have these powers vested in the resident magistrates than the local justices.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said the hon. Member had gone on to deal with the reasons given for the passing of this Act, and reasons for it appearing upon the Statute-book. In 1881 the Bill was introduced because of the disturbed condition of Ireland. It was introduced by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, who was at that time the Home Secretary. It was perfectly true that Ireland to-day was not in so disturbed a condition as it was then, but only a year ago the hon. Member for East Mayo gave the same advice to the people of Mayo as he did on that occasion in the speech which had just been referred to. Only recently Mr. Michael Davitt had said that there were hundreds of thousands of rebels in Ireland who only wanted rifles to assert their rights to self-government. He did not think there was any serious danger of insurrection in Ireland at the present time, but he had merely quoted those speeches to show that there was a difference between the conditions of England and Ireland which justified the restriction placed upon carrying arms in Ireland. Although the danger of an armed insurrection in Ireland was not one which need be considered at the present time, he thought police protection was necessary to be continued. Anyone who had studied events in Ireland must know of the dangers arising out of a collision between hostile crowds in the north of Ireland. These dangers were almost all due to collisions between the crowd and the police, and if they were armed with firearms the results might be most grave. It was eminently desirable that the Government should prevent anything of that kind, and he believed that if it were not for the fact of this Act, a great many people in Ireland who were not qualified to carry arms would possess them. He had nothing further to add in defence of the policy of continuing this Act upon the Statute-book. It was the fourth or fifth time he had had to defend it, and all his predecessors in office since 1881 had found it necessary to retain it. He did not see in the present condition of things in Ireland any circumstance which should lead to a change in the policy, and he hoped that the House would consent to renew the Act.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said such a speech as the House had just listened to from the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary made Irishmen despair of obtaining any remedy from the present Parliament. The Act of 1881 was passed in the face of most serious party opposition, and with many all night sittings and scenes of violence between the Nationalist Members and the Government. But there was one feature in that debate upon which much reliance was placed. The House was told that the Act was a temporary measure brought in owing to the supreme exigencies of the time. It was passed in the same way as a temporary suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. It was passed in a most insidious way by what might be called a party confidence trick. The right hon. Gentleman had been able to make considerable capital out of the fact that when the Act expired in 1886 it was renewed by the hon. Member for Montrose. But under what circumstances was that done? Under circumstances in which every Irish Member would be bound to vote for its continuance; at a time when Belfast had been made by the supporters of the Union a bath of blood, when armed mobs marched through the streets and terrorised the city. Then came the time when it was said that Belfast magistrates should not administer the Act, and the Amendment was introduced and carried providing that it should be administered by two resident magistrates. The circumstances of its renewal by the Liberal Government in 1894 had no analogy. The Irish Members were then supporting the Government, and they passed it as a mere measure of policy. There was not the slightest desire upon their part for a renewal of the Act, but they were not governing the country, and would not do so until it was put plainly into their hands. The present Government were not acting the part of a conductor of the Irish party to Home Rule; according to themselves they were killing Home Rule with kindness. They affected, with expressions which would be insulting if they were not amusing, to know better what was good for Ireland than the representatives of the Irish people. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman was, in some respects, a happy one, but in others quite the reverse, and he regretted he had not the means and the power of getting it printed and posted up in every town of the Transvaal and bringing it to the knowledge of the Boers who were so soon to come under the beneficent rule of England. The Irish soldiers were great fighters and were always put in the front. They were the "soldiers of the Queen," and were allowed by her gracious permission to wear the shamrock. Why were they allowed to carry arms in South Africa and not in their own native land? They were very good when they were put in the front rank of the battle to preserve English lives from Boer Mausers, but in Ireland it was quite another thing. The government of Ireland by England was an infamous pretence, and was only affected by force and fraud. The loyalists who were armed were only loyal to the extent of the cheque which they hoped to get shortly from the Castle. The right hon. Gentleman said, and said justly, that the disability to bear arms could be removed by an application to the resident magistrates, and that anyone could apply who liked; but the Irish people had a great dislike to have anything to say to the loathsome tools of a foul and corrupt Government. They did not wish to acknowledge a system which it had always been their wish to repudiate in every possible way. It was a very great outrage that every person who desired to carry a gun, to shoot birds, or for his own purposes, should have to apply to an official at Dublin Castle. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the statistics of Dublin Castle were always made for the occasion, and could no more be relied on than a Spion Kop despatch after it had passed through the War Office.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) assumed that it was admitted that this was a Coercion Act, and in the very nature of things a Coercion Act was a temporary measure brought in to meet a particular state of things. The Chief Secretary for Ireland argued in support of its renewal that it had been renewed year after year, and that it was perfectly monstrous that Irishmen should now object to a further renewal. If the argument was sound it would be strengthened for another renewal when the right hon. Gentleman brought it in next year.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said that he only referred to the fact that the Act had been introduced for seven or eight years in succession to show that his action on this occasion had not been furtive. He had stated that in reply to an hon. Member who had described his action in the matter as furtive.

MR. LABOUCHERE contended that the action of the right hon. Gentleman was furtive in one respect. If the right hon. Gentleman believed that a Coercion Act was necessary for Ireland, he ought to have come boldly forward and admitted it; but, as he understood the matter, the right hon. Gentleman slipped it in quietly, and if the Irish Members were not very sharp they had no opportunity of exposing the matter. But the right hon. Gentleman did not pretend that it was necessary at the present moment—his argument was that Ireland was quiet at the present moment—but if this Act was not continued the people would begin to drill. For the last year England had been asked to drill, and suggestions had been made that school children—infants of six years of age—should be drilled at the public expense. If the Government went to Ireland for soldiers, obviously it would be an advantage to have the youth of Ireland acquainted with rudimentary drill. Another argument in support of its continuation was that if this Act was abrogated, there would be great fear that the peace would be broken. He did not believe that that was the case, because if a man were determined to fire into the windows of a house he could always supply himself with the means whether the Act were abrogated or not. The fundamental right of men in England and the Empire was to bear arms, and it was an attack upon the fundamental right of British subjects to say that in one part of the British dominions men should not be allowed to bear arms. It had been argued that this was not so, because Irish Members could go to the magistrates and obtain a licence; but what would be the result in England if that were the practice? What was wanted was that there should be an equality under the law between England and Ireland. The great argument of the Unionist party was that they did not wish anything to be done in Ireland that was not done in England, yet the Irish people in Ireland in this respect were put upon the same level of equality as some of the African subjects of the Empire. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, and should support him if he went to a division.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said that the Act drew an invidious distinction between men who had to live under one law and placed a badge of inferiority upon the Irish people. He failed to see why Irishmen in their own country should be restricted in this matter when in England, Scotland, and other parts of the British Empire they had the right to bear arms in common with every other man. When this right was denied to British subjects in the Transvaal at the time when the Boers ruled in Johannesburg, it was considered a very great grievance and injustice, and it was one of the incidents that led to the war. The refusal on the part of England to allow the Irish to bear arms was a tribute to the militarism of the nation. He did not suppose if the Act were repealed there would be one in a hundred of the people in Ireland who would desire to carry arms, and at the same time, those who wished to commit outrages could always obtain arms for their purpose, in spite of the Act. He did not believe if the Act were repealed there would be the general rush for firearms that was feared. In England, even when invasion was apprehended, the people could not be got to possess themselves of firearms, although there was every opportunity given, and grants for rifle ranges, and other matters. It was absurd, because men held a different political opinion to those of the Government, to ay that they must humiliate themselves efore the magistrates in Ireland, in order hat they might be allowed to bear arms or legitimate purposes. He again renewed is protest against the continuance of his measure, and he sincerely hoped that he hon. Member for the Scotland Division f Liverpool would go to a division, so hat the Irish party might once more ecord their disapproval of an Act which laced a mark of inferiority upon the rish race.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I propose certainly to go to a division on this matter. When the right hon. Gentleman made the quotation he read to the House rom the speech of Mr. Davitt, he must have had in his mind the feeling that if Mr. Davitt said these things they were true. What did that mean? It meant that after five years administration in Ireland the right hon. Gentleman had to go down to the constituencies of this country and declare that the hatred of his rule and the principles he represented was just as keen, strong, and widespread in Ireland as at the commencement of that period—in other words, that the right hon. Gentleman had to mark in very large letters over his own administration the word "failure." The right hon. Gentleman now had declared that the policy of disarming was the policy by which he stood in Ireland. He has given no indication that it was a policy he ever intended to abandon. It had become a necessary and enduring part of British government in Ireland. If that were so, he wanted to know how the right hon. Gentleman was able to sit there without a blush as a member of a Government that had spent £60,000,000 of the money of this country on a war which had involved the loss of many most precious lives—one of the pretences and declarations put forward to justify the war being that the Uitlanders, or Englishmen in the Transvaal, were subjected to that very disarming he advocated for the people of Ireland. He did not think it would be possible even for the dialectical skill of the right hon. Gentleman to justify on the one hand a war against disarming in the Transvaal, and on the other hand a policy of disarming for the people of Ireland.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 136; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 261.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manch'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt Hn G J (St George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jessel, Captain Herbert M.
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(S'wns'a
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John Thr'gmorton
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James

Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Savory, Sir Joseph
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Ed. Jas. (Somerset)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta'nt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, Maurice (Cork)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Labouchere, Henry
Lewis, John Herbert
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'nsC.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Ewan, William
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Priestley, Briggs
Reid, Sir Robert Threshie
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Tennant, Harold John
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Bill reported without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

MR. TULLY wished to bring under the notice of the Chief Secretary a considerable grievance which existed in the fact that under the orders of the Local Government Board county councils were compelled to make two sets of rate-books, one of which had to be sent to the office of the clerk of the union. As this duplicate set was never used except in very exceptional cases, all the extra expense was incurred for practically no object. To make the grievance even more acute, the Local Government Board had allowed one of its officials, in conjunction with a firm of printers, to copyright the form of the rate-book, and as a result the price of the books was four or five times greater than otherwise would be the case. He hoped when fresh regulations were made these matters would be remedied so as to protect the ratepayers from the unnecessary expenditure caused by this practice.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) as understood to contend that to do stice under this clause it was necessary continue the rights at present pos- ssed by the middleman, and he moved e Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, after 'reduced,' to insert e following sub-section :—' (3) Sub-section) of the said Section 54, as amended d extended by this section, shall continue have effect until the tenancy of the person erein referred to is determined, notwith- anding that the existing tenancy of the ccupier may have previously determined.' "— *Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words e there inserted."

MR. G. W. BALFOUR thought the mendment would not carry out the in- ention of the hon. Member, nor was it ased on a right principle. It was im- ossible to carry a provision on the land eferred to beyond the termination of the enancy.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clauses 3 and 4, agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

SIR JAMES HASLETT had some ifficulty in seeing the exact effect of he clause. He feared it would re-enact he special salaries of certain officials n the cities of Belfast and Derry.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR RELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said the hon. Member need be under o apprehension on that point. The osition of the present clerk of the peace nd clerk to the Crown was safeguarded nd continued by Section 67 of the Act f 1898. The present Bill dealt only with atters after the present officials ceased o hold their offices.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 7 :—

MR. TULLY asked for an explanation f how the clause would operate. Very erious charges had been put upon the atepayers in order to pay compensation o existing officials who really had no *bona fide* claim thereto. A number of officials had claimed compensation under the Local Government Act in respect of certain offices of which they had been deprived, notwithstanding the fact that their total emoluments were now higher than before the Act was passed.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR interposed, and said the clause had been put in at the express wish of several county and district councils, but if the hon. Member objected to it the Government had no great desire to retain it.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 8, 9, and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) moved to alter the quorum from seven to five. At present, he said, there was a great difficulty in getting a quorum, and if they made the number seven the grievance would be nearly as great as it was under the present state of things. He hoped the Chief Secretary would give way on this point. Three was considered sufficient for a quorum at a board of guardians meeting. The district councils had to deal with sanitary matters, and in cases where fever had broken out in the past they had been unable to get a quorum together for several weeks. As a rule the members lived a long way from each other, and it was difficult to get a large number like seven together. He therefore hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make a concession on this point.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 3, to leave out the word 'seven' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

MR. G. W. BALFOUR said he thought five would be too small a number, and he did not think it would be in the public interest to make the reduction suggested.

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 4, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'county council and.'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

MR. G. W. BALFOUR replied that he had received no representations whatever as to this change from the councils concerned, and they were perfectly well satisfied with the present proposal. Unless the councils made representations that the number should be smaller he did not think they would be justified in making this change.

Amendment negatived.

Clauses 11 and 12 agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

DR. TANNER (Cork Co., Mid) urged the Government to adapt the working of this Bill to the system which obtained in the kindred Bill. He had, he said, three Amendments down to Clause 1, but the point he particularly wished to raise was the propriety of empowering councils to employ direct labour.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! We had better dispose of one Amendment at a time. I may inform the hon. Member that his third Amendment, dealing with the employment of direct labour, is outside the scope of the Bill.

DR. TANNER: I will move my first Amendment, but I do wish to impress on the Government the justice of placing Ireland on the same footing as England, Wales, and Scotland in these local government matters.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out 'if they think fit.'"—(*Dr. Tanner.*)

MR. ATKINSON said he thought the hon. Member was under a misconception. This was purely an enabling clause in regard to the issue of Provisional Orders.

MR. TULLY said there was a good deal of dissatisfaction in Ireland in regard to the procedure under Orders in Council. Take the case of an Order under which large contracts had to be made in regard to roads. What was to be done in the case of defaulting contractors? Would this Bill give power to the Local Government Board, when the county council had a grievance, to deal with these matters by way of Provisional Order? What was wanted was more elasticity in these matters.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The object of the clause is to enable the Local Government Board to alter the provisions of the Procedure Order as to the employment of direct labour by county councils. When this Bill has been passed it will be possible for the Local Government Board to introduce a Procedure Order altering the present system if it be thought expedient.

DR. TANNER: Whereas in England road contracts may be put out to tender, in Ireland the present system is compulsory.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, N.): Are we to understand that this Bill will give facilities to councils in Ireland to employ direct labour?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Bill will not give such facilities, but it will enable the alteration of any Order possible by means of a Procedure Order.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): Otherwise it would require an Act of Parliament to do this.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I hope the right hon. Gentleman realises that there is a strong feeling in the Irish counties as to the necessity for altering the present system as soon as possible. We trust he will see that we get the facilities we desire.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I can make no pledge.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment; ead the third time, and passed.

ROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he had on the Paper an Amendment, the object of which was to widen the scope of the Bill, and especially, if necessary, to prohibit the exportation of Welsh coal, without necessarily prohibiting the exportation of all coal.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after 'exportation of' to insert 'all or any of the following articles—namely.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Further Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out 'and.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The next Amendment will enlarge the power of Her Majesty by proclamation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after 'naval stores' to insert 'and any article which Her Majesty shall judge capable of being converted into, or made useful in increasing the quantity of arms, ammunition, or military or naval stores.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): Is it intended to discriminate between Welsh coal and any other kind of coal?

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) said this was a very important question, whether the power to prohibit the exportation of Welsh coal should be excluded without the sanction of Parliament. It ought not to be hurried through without the Committee thoroughly understanding the full bearing of the proposal against which he entered his solemn protest.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It is perfectly true that the effect of this Amendment will be to prevent the exportation of anything which might be used as a munition of war, but there is nothing in it which is in any way inconsistent with the Bill or which would affect the coal question in a manner to which the hon. Gentleman can object. Under these circumstances I think the hon. Member will see that there is nothing in the Amendment which will affect coal in the way he fears.

*MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) agreed that in any case of national danger nobody would object to prohibit the exportation of any article that might be used against this country, but in the event of the prohibition of the export of coal as a munition of war it would clearly be necessary to go a step further and provide for the maintenance or sustenance of those engaged in the production of coal. Eight-tenths of the coal produced in Northumberland was exported.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Member is under a misapprehension. This Bill does not give power to stop the general exportation of coal. That power is already given under another Act. The only exportation affected by this Bill is that limited exportation to persons who are likely to use that very coal against Her Majesty's forces. It therefore cannot affect the general trade in which the hon. Gentleman takes such deep interest.

*MR. FENWICK agreed it would not affect the general trade, but it might affect a particular district producing only a steam coal, as was the case in Northumberland. Supposing there was a likelihood of war with Germany, and the exportation of coal was prohibited, that prohibition might easily be extended to France, as it might reasonably be urged that the coal, although not going to a country actually at war with us, was going to a country from which it might easily be reshipped to Germany. His point was that in the event of the Government being compelled to take such a course, there ought to be some provision made for the vast numbers of men who had previously been employed in producing the prohibited article, and who by that prohibition would be driven out of employment, and forced to fall back upon public subscription for their support and maintenance.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he should be sorry if the hon. Gentleman went away with the erroneous impression that this Bill would injure the industry in which he was interested. Under the existing law, in the case of war there might be an absolute prohibition; but this Bill proposed a prohibition of a very limited kind to a particular place, and perhaps to a particular part of a country, before war broke out. Under such circumstances, too, there was always a special demand for steam coal by the Admiralty, in consequence of the great activity of the Navy and the use of transports. The industry, therefore, would not be injured in that way, and the power sought was really necessary for the safety of the lives of our own countrymen.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) quite understood the anxiety of the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division, and he believed that when the Bill was first introduced anxiety was caused in the coal-producing localities. He agreed that the Act of 1899 already gave complete power to Her Majesty's Government, either by proclamation or by Order in Council, to prohibit the exportation of coal, and that this Bill gave only a limited power. He did not, however, agree that guns and coal were on all fours. Guns might be manufactured whether there was any demand or not; they could be kept in stock for years, but that was not the case with coal. If the exportation of coal was prohibited the people engaged in the production of coal would be thrown out of employment. He had very little fear of any Government attempting to stop the exportation of coal generally, because with such powerful allies as the coal interest had in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Scotland, and Wales no Government would be so foolish or mad as to stop that industry. While he should like to see some amendment of the clause, he thought the power was one which ought to be given.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES quite appreciated the hon. Member's anxiety, but the clause empowered the prohibition of exportation of coal only if it was capable of becoming naval stores. Moreover, by the existing law, which had been in existence for twenty years, the Sovereign might by proclamation prohibit the exportation of such coal to any place in the world, and therefore what this Bill proposed was to give a much smaller power.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM said the more the clause was explained the more dangerous did it appear. In the opinion of the First Lord of the Treasury this power could be used if it was believed the coal would be used for warlike purposes. There would be no fear if the country was actually at war, because then all the coal would be required at home. But if the power was to be used in the case of mere contemplation of war, thousands of men might possibly be thrown out of work. Nobody desired to produce coal for the enemies of the country—everybody would rather fight than do that; but what was to become of these thousands of men if the exportation were prohibited without any provision being made for their maintenance?

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) made a suggestion which, if practicable, he thought might meet the difficulty. It was conceivable that under this Bill a coal-owner might be unable to carry out his contracts. If he could show that by the operation of this Act a particular contract had had to be given up or broken, would it not be possible to make some arrangement by which the Government would undertake to accept that contract themselves, and take the coal which otherwise would have gone out of the country?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that with regard to China, which was probably the instance present to most minds, it was not very likely that it would be necessary to prohibit the exportation of steam coal at all; arms and ammunition were more likely to be of use there. He would remind the Committee that even if exportation were prohibited under this Bill to any particular place, the whole of the rest of the world would be open to the coal industry. As to the suggestion of the last speaker, if through such prohibition any existing contracts could not be fulfilled in accordance with law, there would be a complete answer to any proceedings which might be taken.

MR. PAULTON: My suggestion was founded on what was said by my hon. friend behind me, that some provision should be made if possible to enable a coal-owner to carry on a contract and find work for his men—that the work should be done for the Government instead of for the foreigner with whom this country might be at war.

SIR JAMES JOICEY said he had some hesitation in giving such full powers to the Government as were proposed. Hitherto Section 8 of the Customs Act had not been put into operation, and we had had no ill effects from it. What he was afraid of was that in times of scare like the present, Governments, like individuals, might get into panic. Supposing that any difference should arise between this country and France or Germany, the very fact that the Government had these powers would affect purchasers from these countries. They would say, "What is the use of buying coal from Great Britain? We had better get it from America or some other country which is a producer." There was great danger of these powers being used for the disadvantage of this country. He was anxious that Her Majesty's Government should not issue a proclamation without giving sufficient time at all events for the coal industries to prepare themselves.

*MR. FENWICK said the Members of the House representing mining districts were particularly interested in this matter, because the industry in which their constituents were engaged was vastly different from trades manufacturing the ordinary munitions of war. Such firms as Armstrongs' could go on making guns and shells, and the articles would not deteriorate. It was different in the case of coal, which deteriorated when exposed to climatic influences. Coal-owners would not undertake to bring coal to the surface when a proclamation had been issued. They would prefer to close down their mines, and the men would remain idle while the proclamation was running. The miners' representatives did not object to a proclamation such as was contemplated by the Bill being issued in the case of actual hostilities, but the danger they feared would arise when there was a prospect of hostilities, when there was imminent danger of hostilities breaking out between this and another country, and when the Government might be tempted by pressure from without to issue such a proclamation prohibiting the exportation of coal to that country. The rupture might never come, but considerable suffering might be imposed by the prohibition of the export of coal, because of the prospect of hostilities between this country and, say, France or Germany. If they had some assurance from the Government on that point they would be set at rest at once.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) expressed the hope that similar Bills would be introduced in the colonial Parliaments. There was a large amount of steam coal produced in the colonies.

MR. PICKARD (Yorkshire, W.R., Normanton) said no explicit information had been given to them with regard to this proposal. What they wanted to know was how this proclamation would affect the coal trade. They should like to know whether the Government would do anything for the colliery proprietors when they stopped the exportation of coal. Would they be prepared to pay for all the coal that was stopped on that account? If this country believed that war was imminent, they would have no objection to a proclamation being issued. If they believed that France was storing coal for warlike purposes, all he could say was that it would be rather awkward if they were going to prevent South Wales from sending coal to France. He thought that would mean a declaration of war against France. That was the general impression. He could only hope that the Government would not intervene to prevent France from getting coal in this country. The landowners would get their royalty rents, but the men would be idle. Would they stop cotton goods from going to China and France? Would they prevent wine coming to this country from France? Would they prevent the shipbuilders on the Tyne from building their ships? This proposal meant a great deal more than they conceived if they prevented coal from going out of this country in the way contemplated by this Bill. If the Government would say, "When we know for a certainty that there is to be war a proclamation shall be issued," he did not think there was any man in the House so unpatriotic as to wish to send war material to any country.

*Sir J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said there was no cause for the apprehension felt by his hon. friends in regard to the effect of this Bill. The powers conferred by the Bill would not be exercised by the Government until the relations between this and a foreign country had come to a point which rendered that course necessary. There would then be a boom in the coal trade by demands from our own ports and shipping abroad.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) thought it was extremely dangerous to allow this power of proclamation to be exercised by the Government alone.

*Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: It can be so exercised already.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS: Not in respect of coal. The danger he conceived was that they might have a Government who would be carried away by newspapers. He thought it was possible that they might have some speculators in coal who would imitate the practices of the South African financiers, and who would hire two or three editors and send them over to France or Germany or America. The gentlemen who engineered such a panic would then cause them to turn round and remove the danger after they had caused the people of this country to buy enormous quantities of coal. They would remove the cause of alarm by dismissing their editors. So long as the power applied to all commodities and exports it would be impossible for a clique of financial speculators to form a ring in one commodity and influence the country. He did not think that even the present Government could be influenced by the financial press to stop all the exports of this country, though it was extremely probable they might be influenced to stop the export of coal. This was legislation in panic, which was always dangerous, because people shut their eyes to everything except to the danger immediately likely to occur.

*Mr. GIBSON BOWLES pointed out that the law had existed ever since the Act of 1879, and the only power which this Bill gave was a power to enable the Government to prohibit the export of particular warlike stores to particular places.

Sir JAMES JOICEY agreed, but at the same time pointed out that the powers under the Act of 1879 had never been put into operation by the Government. This Bill showed that it was the intention of the Government to put these powers into operation, and it was that fact that made people so anxious. The Government seemed to be under the impression that if the exportation of English coal were prohibited, the supply of coal to foreign Powers would be stopped. This country had long ceased to be the only coal-supplying country. We now supplied a very small proportion of that which was used, and the only result of this legislation would be that other countries would secure the trade. He asked for an assurance that the proclamation should not be issued so far as coal was concerned, excepting in the case of breaking off of diplomatic relations or the commencement of hostilities. There was a great difference between coal and other goods; guns and ammunition might be exported years before, but no country would ever think of importing coal more than three months before it was required.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE. 1898-9.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—

(a) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8s. 3d., as shown in column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended;

while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the Estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6s. 6d., as shown in column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18s. 3d.

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13s. 5d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3s. 3d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 9s. 10d.

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses ...	825,325	12	7
Total Deficits ...	577,801	4	6
Net Surplus...	£247,524	8	1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Naval Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12 11
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services	...	551 11 11	...	636 9 6
4 ...	Martial Law... ...	719 3 2	...	...	40 8 4
5 ...	Educational Services	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11 9
6 ...	Scientific Services ...	2,897 18 0	..	...	5,423 0 7
7 ...	Royal Naval Reserves	...	13,683 11 1	...	188 13 1
8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.:				
Sec. 1 ..	Personnel ...	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
Sec. 2...	Matériel	192,715 5 7	...	...	43,268 14 0
Sec. 3...	Contract Work ...	...	749,758 9 6	2,053 13 10	
9 ...	Naval Armaments ...	...	8,525 13 6	73 15 11	
10 ...	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad... ...	91,241 9 9	...	...	10,752 7 3

SCHEDULE—*continued.*

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
11 ...	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	32,862 19 2	...	...	1,553 16 2
12 ...	Admiralty Office ...	500 5 8	...	...	1 17 9
13 ...	Half-pay, Reserved and Retired Pay ...	18,169 4 5	...	954 1 6	
14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3

Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3 Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £247,524 8 1

That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present Session), and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £268,594 1s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £100,615 14s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £167,978 7s. 7d.

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £48,828 14s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the Estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £226,126 0s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £177,297 6s. 3d.

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

		£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	...	278,806	12	5
Total Deficits	...	269,487	13	9
Net Surplus	...	£9,318	18	8

That by a Vote of Parliament during the present Session (House of Commons Paper, No. 90, of 1900) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1898–9, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £168,070 2s. 6d.

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, etc., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	29,358 10 11	...	...	100,529 17 8
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... ...	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48,384 14 2	
11	Establishments for Military Education... ...	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc....	...	4,412 6 8	...	3,915 16 1
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	240 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote	..	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		

Net Deficit, £167,878 7 7 Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3

Net Surplus £9,418 18 8

–(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

OIL IN TOBACCO BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (ISLE OF MAN) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (JERSEY) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed.

IMITATION OF COUNTY COURT PROCESS BILL [Lords].

Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS PROTECTION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RELIEF BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

COPYRIGHT BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

LARCENY ACT (1861) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes before Eight of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 2nd August, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee without amendment.

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered that Standing Orders Nos. 143, 143A, and 144 be suspended for the remainder of the session.

CLONTARF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

The Queen's consent signified; Bill read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

PLYMOUTH, STONEHOUSE, AND DEVONPORT TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 1) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL.

ALEXANDRA PARK BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ROCHDALE CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL.

ABERDEEN POLICE AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

BRADFORD CORPORATION BILL.

CHARING CROSS AND STRAND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BILL.

CITY OF LONDON (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

CROYDON TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (BRIDGES) BILL.

DURHAM (COUNTY OF) ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

EXETER CORPORATION BILL.

FARNWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

HALIFAX CORPORATION BILL.

LANCASHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

LANCASTER CORPORATION BILL.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BILL.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 2) BILL.

MARKET WEIGHTON DRAINAGE AND NAVIGATION BILL.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL.

RICKMANSWORTH AND UXBRIDGE VALLEY WATER BILL.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY GAS BILL.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION BILL.

WEST HAM CORPORATION BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL [H.L.].

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [H.L.].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 4) BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

MARGATE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MORLEY CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

TRAMWAYS PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LANDS AND HERITAGES (SCOTLAND).

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 26th October last), and to be printed. (No. 221.)

ARMY (MILITIA).

Regulations for the competitive examination of Militia candidates for commissions in the Army in September next.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement in explanation of draft of an Order in Council for transferring to and making exercisable by the Board of Education certain powers of the Charity Commissioners.

TREATY SERIES (No. 16), 1900.

Agreement between the United Kingdom and Siam relative to the Registration of British subjects in Siam; signed at Bangkok, 29th November, 1899.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2489. Germany (Bavaria).
No. 2493. Bulgaria.
No. 2494. France (Martinique).
No. 2495. Portugal (Chinde).
No. 2496. Italy (Lecce).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Twenty-ninth Annual Report, 1899–1900.

Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer, for 1899-1900.

EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Return of Evictions in Ireland, for the quarter ended 30th June, 1900.

TRAMWAY AND GAS AND WATER ORDERS.

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Tramways Act, 1870, and the Gas and Waterworks Facilities Act, 1870, during the Session of 1900.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890; with appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C.—9486]).

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Return of all British ships ordered by the Board of Trade or its officers, during the period from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1900, to be provisionally detained as unsafe by reason of the defective condition of their hulls, equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 459 of the Act, giving the names of the owners of those ships which have been dismantled, broken up, or converted into hulks, etc.; also of all foreign ships ordered to be provisionally detained during the same period as unsafe by reason of overloading or improper loading, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 462 of the same Act; together with summaries showing respectively the total number of ships ordered to be detained as unsafe, from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1900, and since the 1st October, 1876, distinguishing between those cases in which the ships were found safe or unsafe (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C.—9427]).

MERCHANT SEAMEN.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Board of Trade on the question of continuous discharge certificates for seamen; with minutes of evidence, appendix, and index.

STATISTICS.

I. Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1885 to 1899. Forty-seventh Number.

II. Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1885 to 1899. Thirty-seventh Number.

RAILWAYS.

General Report to the Board of Trade on the capital, traffic, and expenditure of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1899.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report relating to changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1899; with statistical tables.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1899–1900; with statements respecting the several institutions aided and the experiments conducted.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.

Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1899–1900.

LUNACY (IRELAND).

Forty-ninth Report for 1899 (with appendices), of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Part 1: Criminal Statistics for the year 1899.

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).

Sixty-eighth Annual Report of Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP).

Ninth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade under Section 29 of the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890.

BANKRUPTCY.

Seventeenth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on Table.

DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I have again to ask your attention to a matter outside the ordinary business of the House—a matter of sad and melancholy interest. It is to ask you to pass a vote of condolence to Her Most Gracious Majesty on the lamentable and unexpected death of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg; and also to pass a vote of condolence to the Duchess, whom he loved so much, and who was so deeply respected in this country. My Lords, this case of condolence differs from that which I had to submit to you the other day, in that it has a special interest for this country and for these Houses of Parliament. As in the case of the King of Italy, we have to mourn the loss of a Prince of high merit and of great popularity in this country and in his adopted country during the short time he held the position of ruler there. He was a man who stood high in the profession to which he belonged—a profession which is the most honoured of all among us—and who had an influence and a reputation in that profession which was well earned by his capacity. For this and for many other personal reasons his loss will be deeply felt. But to us there is another and a closer call upon our sympathy, in that the bereavement affects the Sovereign who has been more beloved than any other who has sat on the Throne of this realm. We have to offer our condolence to the Queen on this lamentable loss. In doing so we assure her that we are fully sensible of the loss which she has sustained in the valuable life which has been taken away from her, that her sorrows in these matters are our sorrows, her loss is our loss, and that we submit to Her Majesty the respectful expression of our homage and our deep sympathy, assuring her that in all matters concerning herself and her family our feelings are ever in attendance upon her, ever wishful for her welfare, ever grieved at her sorrow; and we earnestly hope that she will be sustained in this great loss, and continue with unchecked vigour and power to exercise that influence which she has exerted for so long with such splendid results for the prosperity, the honour, and well-being of this country.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I rise to second the motion which has been made by the noble Marquess. I can only echo what he has said with regard to the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg. He was a man who was not merely a conspicuous figure in the Naval service because he was one of the Royal Family; but by universal testimony he was a man who, in any case, would have occupied a very high position in our Navy, having been, as I am assured by the very best judges, one of the most able and capable officers who served in that noble service.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Hear, hear!

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: But the late Duke of Edinburgh—as I more naturally call him—was not only when on service with the Fleet a most able and efficient officer, but he also devoted himself to the Navy in other capacities. My noble friend Lord Northbrook, who could not be here to-night, reminds me that during the time that he held the post of First Lord of the Admiralty the noble Duke then held the post of Admiral of the Naval Reserve, and in that capacity, my noble friend assures me, he rendered most admirable administrative services in settling some very difficult questions that arose at the Board of Admiralty and the Board of Trade, and subsequently he presided over a very important Committee which made a Report of great value upon the subject of pensions for widows of seamen. I mention that only to show that the late Duke was unsparing of his time in the public service, and that whatever question he dealt with he dealt with it with the greatest ability and the greatest devotion to the service of which he was an ornament. My Lords, I must express my deep agreement with the noble Marquess in the words of condolence which he has used with respect to Her Majesty the Queen. That is a feeling which is deep in the hearts of all of her subjects, and those of us who have themselves suffered those sorrows know how deep her sympathy has been with any of her subjects in that position; and she may rest assured that, not only in this House, but throughout the country, the deepest sympathy is felt with her in this great sorrow. I second the motion.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to express the deep concern of this House at the great loss which Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Her Majesty the Queen, and to condole with Her Majesty on this melancholy occasion; to assure Her Majesty that this House will ever feel the warmest interest in whatever concerns Her Majesty's domestic relations, and to declare the ardent wishes of this House for the happiness of Her Majesty and Her family."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

On Question, agreed to, *nemine dissentiente.* Ordered that the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

Moved, "That this House do condole with Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, on the great loss which she has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

On Question, agreed to, *nemine dissentiente.*

OIL IN TOBACCO BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS PROTECTION BILL.

MONEY-LENDING BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed; and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 219.)

VOLUNTEERS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow. (No. 220.)

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order). Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COMPANIES BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill. Most of your Lordships are fairly familiar with the particulars of the Bill, as it has already been before a Select Committee of your Lordships' House. I think that in its main provisions the Bill has not been greatly altered, but I may say that when the Bill reaches Committee I shall call attention to those parts of the Bill as to which differences exist. Some of these differences I shall ask your Lordships to consider in Committee, and I therefore shall reserve my remarks until that occasion. With respect to some of the Amendments which have been inserted in the other House I shall ask your Lordships to agree with the Commons in their Amendments, but with regard to one or two of them I am afraid I shall be obliged to ask your Lordships to insist upon your own view of what is appropriate legislation on the subject. While on the one hand there has been an effort to make it less possible for fraudulent companies to be initiated, there has also been an effort to get rid of those parts of the Bill which were calculated to work unjustly against people of substance. I think the disappearance of what I may call the penalising clauses of the Bill is a great improvement. Disaster has often arisen through joint stock companies commencing business without sufficient capital, and it is now made a condition of their being permitted to commence business that a certain portion of capital should be subscribed, so that at all events they should be able to start with a reasonable and sufficient capital. There are also provisions in the Bill, with which your Lordships are familiar, which require that directors of companies should be properly qualified, and that they should be responsible not only for mistakes and errors, but for gross misconduct; but no director need be frightened that any new or drastic law is being enacted against him, for a director who reasonably performs his duty to the best of his ability will be safe.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, I felt some regret at first at the late period of the session at which this Bill has come up to your Lordships from another place, because I was afraid, from what I saw in the ordinary sources of information, that great changes had been made in the Bill in the other House, and I thought it was only right that your Lordships, after the attention you had bestowed on the Bill, should have ample opportunity of considering those Amendments. But, looking through the Bill as it has come back to us, I entirely agree with the noble and learned Lord that the alterations which have been made are not very material, and, in some cases, I am bound to admit, they are unimportant. I feel confident, therefore, that your Lordships will be able to deal with the Bill in the short period remaining of this session. This Bill is by no means an ideal measure, and I am too old to think that it will make any very great difference. So long as there are people who will insist on investing their money in concerns about which they know little or nothing, and without making ample inquiry, I do not think it possible, even if it were the office of legislation to do so, for legislation to protect them against their own mistakes. All the Legislature can do, and I suppose this Bill will do that in a very great measure, is to give people who invest their money in concerns of this character the means of acquiring information about them, if they choose to avail themselves of it. You cannot give them good sense; you cannot give them judgment or discretion; but you can, to a certain extent, place at their command the means of information if they like to avail themselves of it. The Bill contains three provisions which I regard as most important. The first is the requirement placed upon every company which invites the public to take its shares to state the minimum amount of subscription upon which the directors will go to allotment. It will be within your Lordships' knowledge that people acquainted with this class of business are unanimous in affirming that one of the greatest evils is this. A company asks for subscriptions amounting to a large sum, say £100,000, for the purpose of carrying on some industrial enterprise; the people who subscribe think they are subscribing to a company which will have a capital of that amount, but, owing to the public not responding, subscriptions are only received to the extent of, say, £10,000 or £15,000; and as the law stands it is in the power of directors to allot to the people who supposed they were subscribing to a capital of the dimensions I have suggested, and who therefore find themselves landed in a company which has a wholly insufficient capital with which to carry out its proposed enterprise. The provision in this Bill requiring directors to state the minimum subscription on which they will go to allotment will go a long way towards preventing what is admittedly a serious evil in the present law. The second provision, which I think is a most valuable one, is the registration of mortgages and charges. This Bill requires that all mortgages and charges, which are usually created by a company in the form of debentures, shall be registered at the Joint Stock Companies' office —up to the present there has been no requirement of that kind—and that they shall be registered within a limited time after they are created. The third provision to which I attach importance is the unveiling of the real vendor and the abolition of the nominal vendor. Your Lordships are aware that what is called —and it has become a technical phrase— the "nominal vendor" plays a large part in the drama of bringing out a company. The real vendor sells his property to a syndicate for a certain sum. The syndicate proposes to form a company and to sell the property to the company at a largely enhanced price, but, in order to keep themselves in the background, and in order to conceal from those who subscribe for the shares the amount at which the property is being sold by the person really entitled to it, they put forward a person as the nominal vendor who has no interest in the matter, and this shadow figures on the prospectus as the vendor of the property. It is, therefore, impossible for the person reading the prospectus to know that the property first came from the real vendor, for, say, £100,000, and that £50,000 had been added to it for the benefit of some intermediate individual. That is a subject very difficult to deal with, and it has engaged the attention for some time of members of a Select Committee appointed by both Houses of Parliament. Though it is not dealt with in this Bill in a way which I think will be completely successful, I do not know a better way in which it could be dealt with, and if this Bill contained only these three provisions it would be well worth passing. The clauses dealing with the issuing of prospectuses are somewhat cumbersome, and many people think—I believe there is some ground for the fear—that they will be the means of overloading the prospectus. Speaking for myself, I think it would have been better to have had one clause only saying what you mean—namely, that it should be the duty of those who frame and issue prospectuses to use the best means at their command for stating not only with accuracy, but with fulness and clearness, everything material for the intended investor to know. That subject was discussed before the Select Committee of your Lordships' House, who were opposed to any general provision of that kind being inserted. Therefore I shall not press the point upon your Lordships' attention. The effect of such a clause would be to make directors or others who issue prospectuses responsible not only for actual fraud and misstatements, but for neglecting to state with fulness and clearness everything which it is material for those who invest their money in the concern to know. The courts are perfectly competent to deal with cases of fraud—they do not want any stronger powers than they have at present; but as the law stands they have no power to deal with cases in which essential particulars are not stated with fulness and accuracy. I have had an opportunity, through the courtesy of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, of seeing the Amendments which he proposes to move in Committee, and I think they are such as your Lordships will be disposed to adopt. I will only say, in conclusion, that there is one clause which I regret very much indeed has been omitted from the Bill in the other House. The clause to which I refer was omitted by Mr. Ritchie, who was in charge of the Bill, and its object was to give certain preference to the trade creditors of a company in the case of a winding-up. I propose, with your Lordships' permission, to move the reinsertion of the clause in Committee, when I shall have a better opportunity of explaining the exact language and effect of it. The small extent to which the Bill has been altered in the House of Commons is, I think, a great testimony to the care and trouble which the members of the Select Committee of your Lordships' House devoted to the subject.

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1:—

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said that in the House below certain clauses, under which a company might be incorporated for carrying on a profession or business, such as that of a chemist, for which individuals had to pass an examination, had been struck out. He hoped the House would not insist upon the reinsertion of those deleted clauses, for if that were done he feared it would be impossible to carry the Bill this session. It was the late Lord Herschell who first called attention to the anomaly of allowing companies to be formed to carry on business which required technical skill, and for which individuals had to be examined in order to prove their competency. He (the Lord Chancellor) regretted the disappearance from the Bill of these clauses, but was afraid he would have to ask their Lordships to agree to the Commons Amendments.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 amended and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 9 agreed to.

Clause 10:—

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said the clause as it stood required that many unnecessary particulars should be stated in the prospectus. He therefore moved Amendments which would have the effect of providing that the prospectus issued by or on behalf of a company, or by a promoter of a company, need not give the names and addresses of the holders or intended holders of founders' or management shares; particulars of the control given to such holders in relation to the company's business; the amount (if any) paid or payable as purchase money in cash, shares, or debentures, specifying the amount payable for goodwill; the amount (if any) paid or payable as commission for subscribing or agreeing to subscribe, or procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions, for any shares in the company, or the rate of any such commission; the amount or estimated amount of preliminary expenses; the amount paid, or intended to be paid, to any promoter, and the consideration for any such payment; the dates of and parties to every material contract and a reasonable time and place at which any material contract or a copy thereof may be inspected, provided that this requirement shall not apply to a contract entered into in the ordinary course of the business carried on or intended to be carried on by the company, or to any contract entered into more than three years before the date of publication of the prospectus; the names and addresses of the auditors (if any) of the company; or full particulars of the nature, and extent of the interest (if any) of every director in the promotion of or in the property proposed to be acquired by the company, with a statement of all sums paid, or agreed to be paid, to him in cash or shares by any person either to qualify him as a director or otherwise for services rendered by him in connection with the formation of the company.

Amendments moved—

"In page 6, lines 16 and 17, to leave out, 'and the names and addresses of the holders or intended holders'; in lines 18 to 20, to leave out, 'with particulars of the control given to such holders in relation to the company's businesss'; in lines 20 and 21, to leave out, 'their interest,' and to insert 'the interest of the holders'; in page 7, line 7, to leave out from 'company' to end of line 34."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Amendments agreed to.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said his attention had been called to the fact that the cost of publishing in a newspaper advertisement the contents of the Memorandum of Association, etc., with the prospectus was very heavy. He therefore proposed an Amendment to Section 6 of this clause, which related to the publication of a prospectus as a newspaper advertisement, providing that it should not be necessary to specify the contents of the Memorandum of Association or the signatories thereto, and the number of shares subscribed for by them.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 32, to leave out from 'shall' to end of line 35, and to insert, 'not be necessary to specify the contents of the Memorandum of Association or the signatories thereto, and the number of shares subscribed for by them.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 10, page 8, lines 41 and 42, to leave out 'and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered it.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD DAVEY said he did not intend to oppose this Amendment, although he regretted that it had been moved. The subsection of Clause 10 in question provided that in the event of non-compliance with any of the requirements of the section a director or other person responsible for the prospectus should not incur any liability by reason of the non-compliance if he proved that, as regarded any matter not disclosed, he was not cognisant thereof, and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered it. The noble and learned Lord now proposed to delete the words "and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered it." It sometimes happened that persons took care not to know. He regretted the proposal to omit these words, which, so far as he could see, could do no harm.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY expressed the opinion that the words proposed to be left out constituted an unreasonable region of inquiry.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 amended, and agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 25 agreed to.

LORD DAVEY said the clause the re-insertion of which he proposed to move would come in after Clause 25. Their Lordships were aware that it was usual to raise money as part of the capital of a company by means of debentures on what was called a floating charge. Those floating charges were, if he might say so, the creation of the judges. They were a kind of charge which it would be impossible for an individual to give. The holder of one of these debentures had a right to intervene and to lay his hands upon any property of the company whenever default was made in the payment of his interest, or in case of winding up. No individual would be allowed to give a charge on his property the practical effect of which was to give a preference to a particular creditor in cases of bankruptcy. That would be against the policy of the bankruptcy laws. It had been established, however, that a company could do so, but it was not unfair or contrary to sound principles of legislation, when such a peculiar privilege was allowed to debenture-holders, to endeavour to limit it so that it should not bear hardly on the ordinary trade creditors of the company. Three preferences already existed—namely, the wages of workmen, the salaries of officers, and rates. Those of their Lordships who were acquainted with the winding up of companies must have been struck, he might almost say shocked, by what had taken place. The debenture-holders owning these floating charges, who had supplied the capital for carrying on the company, came in and swept away the whole of the assets, leaving nothing at all to the trade creditors, who had supplied the material by which the company had carried on its business. In his opinion these debenture-holders stood on a totally different footing from the ordinary trade creditors. As they were practically the people for whose benefit the company was carried on, he did not think they should be allowed, in the case of a winding up, to step in and sweep away the whole of the assets for themselves, leaving nothing for the trade creditors.

Moved, to insert as a new clause—

"In the winding-up of any company under the Companies Acts all debts owing by the company to its trade creditors, and incurred in the ordinary course of its trading within the period of three months before the date of the winding-up, shall be entitled to the same priority as the debts referred to in Section 2 of the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Amendment Act, 1897, and shall be paid accordingly, but after payment of such last-mentioned debts."—(*Lord Davey.*)

LORD MACNAGHTEN thought that a clause of this sort would have a very wholesome effect in the case of small trading companies, and he would be glad if it were accepted. The noble and learned Lord instanced a case which recently came before the House in its judicial capacity to show the hardship which was frequently inflicted under the present law on ordinary trade creditors.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY believed that his noble and learned friends would not insist on the clause when he told them that its acceptance would be fatal to the Bill. He did not, however, deny that there was a great deal in what they had said, and his own sympathies might be in their favour. He did not quite agree that the ordinary trade creditors were in an analogous position to that of those to whom a preference was now allowed — persons dependent for their daily bread on their wages. Whatever might be the merits of a clause of this sort, it had not a single friend when it was discussed in the House of Commons, where it seems to have been agreed that it would be destructive to the credit of debentures, and so prevent a great many companies from raising money, which might be essential to their continuance, upon debentures. He was compelled on behalf of the Government to oppose the Amendment.

LORD DAVEY said that after what the noble and learned Lord had said he would not press the clause. At the same time, he was much obliged to his noble and learned friend for his expression of sympathy, made in a somewhat guarded manner, with the object the Amendment sought to achieve, and perhaps in a future session he (Lord Davey) might claim the benefit of that sympathy.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 26 :—

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said he was unable to agree to this clause, which declared that—

"It shall not be necessary for the Official Receiver in any further Report under Section 8, of the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890, to state whether in his opinion any fraud has been committeed by any particular person, and accordingly in Sub-section (2) of that section the words 'by any person,' and the words 'by any director or other officer of the company, shall be repealed.'"

The effect of this clause would be to allow a director, against whom no specific charge of fraud had been brought, to be placed in the witness-box and publicly examined. This would reverse a very valuable judgment of their Lordships' House, and would be harsh, unjust, and unreasonable.

Amendment moved—

"To omit Clause 26."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD DAVEY supported the Amendment, and said that ample means were provided in the Companies Act of 1862 for investigation and obtaining evidence. The result of this clause would be to place perfectly innocent persons in an extremely disagreeable, odious, and unmerited position.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 32 agreed to.

Clause 33:—

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, after line 32, to insert 'But nothing in this section shall be construed as extending the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890, to Scotland or Ireland.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 33, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 34 agreed to.

Clause 35 amended, and agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 222.)

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) (SALARIES, ETC.) BILL.

Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3^a To-morrow.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, the main object of this Bill is to enable the funds at the disposal of the Intermediate Education Board to be expended for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations contained in the Report of the Intermediate Education Commission. It is considered that these funds could not be expended for the purpose of carrying out some of these recommendations without legislation, inasmuch as they are not clearly within the provisions of the Intermediate Education Act of 1878. Clause 2 gives power to appoint inspectors. Clause 3 gives power to grant superannuation allowances to the officers of the Board; and Clause 4 provides that the board shall consist of twelve instead of seven members.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to enable the guardians of a poor-law union to send children and lunatics to institutions situated outside the boundaries of their union, and also to enable the limit of land which may be acquired under the existing law for the purposes of poor-houses, schools, and other institutions under the control of the guardians, to be exceeded in special cases.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (ISLE OF MAN) BILL. (No. 223.)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (JERSEY) BILL. (No. 224.)

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper.*)

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL. (No. 225.)

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL. (No. 226.)

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*) (No. 227.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*) (No. 228.)

IRISH TITHES—PUBLICATION OF PRICES IN THE *DUBLIN GAZETTE*.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government under what statute or other authority is it obligatory to publish the average price of corn in the *Dublin*

Gazette; what department or what official is responsible for seeing that such average price is published; does the *Dublin Gazette* now publish the average price of corn as required by statute; if so, on what date was the publication resumed subsequent to 1887 (when the publication was admittedly discontinued); and will the payers and receivers of Church perpetuity rents become again entitled to have those rents varied as soon as the average price of corn has been published in the *Dublin Gazette* for seven years preceding the dates at which the parties would in the ordinary course be entitled to have their perpetuity rents varied.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: Statistics concerning corn, including average prices, were formerly published in the *Dublin Gazette* under the provisions of several Irish statutes relating to corn bounties, and were subsequently adopted by and made applicable to the Acts dealing with tithe rent-charge and Church perpetuity grants. The Corn Bounty statutes were repealed by the Statute Law Revision (Ireland) Act, 1879. In 1887 the average prices of corn ceased to be published or advertised in the *Dublin Gazette.* The cause of this cessation is unknown, as no record on the subject can be traced. It is doubtful whether since the repeal of the Corn Bounty Acts a responsibility is thrown by law on any department or official for seeing that such average prices are published. The Irish Government have, with Treasury sanction, arranged with the secretary of the Dublin Corn Exchange for the resumption of the publication weekly in the *Dublin Gazette* of these average prices. The first publication under this arrangement was made on 17th January, 1899. As regards the fourth question, the answer will depend upon whether the average prices now published by the *Dublin Gazette* are held by the courts to be the average prices of corn as required by statute.

TRAMWAY BILLS—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I beg to ask the Chairman of Committees a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether he has under consideration the expediency of proposing an alteration of Standing Order No. XXII., the effect of which is to give local authorities an absolute veto upon any proposal for the construction of a new tramway. In the event of the London County Council promoting a Tramway Bill they have to obtain the consent of the local authorities, and accept conditions the local authorities desire to impose, not always to the public interest. The difficulty is increased by the fact that very often a tramway runs through the districts of several road authorities, who have different views as to what their particular districts require. I believe the Standing Order could be amended so far as London is concerned by the insertion of a very few words. If I receive any encouragement from the noble Earl I will bring forward a motion at the beginning of next session.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The EARL of MORLEY): I am entirely in sympathy with my noble friend, and I think I expressed that view a week or two ago in this House. This preliminary objection which any local authority can take to a tramway going through any part of its district is not conducive to the public interest, although I think the road authority ought to have a strong voice in such matters. I have had the question brought before me in relation both to London and other parts of the country. As Lord Ribblesdale said, the question, so far as it affects London, is not on all fours with other parts of the country. I am very anxious, if possible, to move an Amendment to the Standing Orders in question. It is now too late in the session to do so, as I should not like so important an Amendment to be made without the local authorities having ample opportunity of expressing their opinions upon it. I did not, therefore, include any Amendment to this Standing Order in the Amendments I moved a day or two ago. I am, however, in hearty sympathy with my noble friend, and I hope to move an Amendment to Standing Order No. XXII. next session.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered To-morrow, in order to its being suspended for the remainder of the session.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Six of the clock, till To-morrow, at a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 2nd August, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): The period of the session has now arrived when it is customary to make alterations in the Standing Orders. I gave notice of these more than a week ago, but I do not think they call for many observations. One of the Amendments it is proposed to insert in Standing Order III.—namely, the words "or compulsory user of the same"—has become necessary in consequence of a Bill having been introduced which proposed to deal with certain lands without acquiring them, by taking the right of user for certain military purposes. It was found that the Bill had been brought in without notice to the individuals whose land it was proposed to use, and at the suggestion of the Standing Orders Committee this Amendment is now proposed. Its effect will be that in similar cases, before scheduling the lands of any individual, due notice will have to be given of the intention to do so. The next Amendment to Standing Order VI. is purely a drafting one; and a further trifling one to insert the words "or newspapers" is intended to give facilities for further publicity, instead of confining the advertisment to one newspaper. There is a new Standing Order proposed providing that a map shall be deposited at the Board of Trade on or before 30th November in the case of Bills for the supply of electrical energy, it being felt that the districts affected should be able to see from the map the extent to which the Bill applies to them. A fresh series of new Standing Orders are also proposed (250 to 257 inclusive) for the purpose of carrying out the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act of last year. Throughout that Act there are many references to certain procedure to take place in this House—the words usually being "subject to Standing Orders if the two Houses of Parliament think fit so to order." These Standing Orders are little more than a repetition of the words of the statute, but they have become necessary in order to enable the various proceedings laid down by the Act to take place. I beg to move the series of Amendments standing on the Paper in my name.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I should like to ask the Chairman of Committees what is to be done with regard to the constitution of the non-Parliamentary panel. I understand it has to be appointed by the two Chairmen before the 1st January. There is more latitude with regard to the Parliamentary panel.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I have not been in communication very recently with the Secretary for Scotland on this matter, but during the recess I will communicate with him and we can then constitute the non-Parliamentary panel. But, of course, no action will be taken and no members will be selected to sit upon any of these Commissions until the Parliamentary panel has been constituted at the commencement of next session. The Bills will not be ready for the Commissioners until February or March. Under the Act of Parliament the Commissioners are to be selected, in the first place, from the two Parliamentary panels, and it is only in the event of those two bodies being exhausted that the non-Parliamentary panel can be drawn upon. I do not think it likely that the services of the non-Parliamentary panel will be often needed.

Amendments to the Standing Orders agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Resolutions, numbered 250 to 257, be Standing Orders of the House.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Ordered, That the Standing Orders, as amended, be printed. [No. 314.]

MUIRKIRK, MAUCHLINE, AND DALMELLINGTON RAILWAYS (ABANDONMENT) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time. — (*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

WORKINGTON RAILWAYS AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That, in the case of the Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Queen's consent signified; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That, in the case of the Bournemouth Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 217, 239, and 242 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Amendments made.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Bill,
Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation Bill,
Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order Bill,
Saint David's Railway (Abandonment) Bill, without amendment.

Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill,
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill,
Devonport Corporation Bill,
Hastings Corporation Bill,
Scarborough Corporation Bill,
Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill,
Mid-Kent Water Bill,
Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill,
Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Bill,
Metropolitan District Railway Bill,
Coventry Corporation Bill,
Taunton Corporation Bill,
Metropolitan Gas (Prepayment Meter) Bill (changed from Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies Bill),
South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill,
Tottenham Urban District Council Bill,
Southport Corporation Bill,
Dublin Corporation Bill,
Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways Bill,
North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill,
Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill,
Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Bill,
London County Tramways (No. 1) Bill,
London County Council (Improvements) Bill,
London County Council (General Powers) Bill,
London United Tramways Bill,
Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill,
Alexandra Park Bill,
Rochdale Corporation Bill, with Amendments.

That they have agreed to Amendments to—

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords],
North British Railway Bill [Lords],
Walsall Corporation Bill [Lords],
Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [Lords],
Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords],
Ipswich Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords],

Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel Bill [Lords],
Salford Corporation Bill [Lords],
Withington Urban District Council Bill [Lords], without amendment.

PETITION.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Pontefract, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

RAILWAYS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade on the Capital, Traffic, and Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1899 (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (UNITED KINGDOM).

Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1885 to 1899, Forty-seventh Number (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES).

Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1885 to 1899, Thirty-seventh number (by Command) ; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES, ETC.).

Copy presented, of Report and Statistical Tables relating to Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, 1899, with Statistical Tables [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 (VESSELS DETAINED).

Copy presented, of Return of all ships ordered by the Board of Trade, or its officers, to be provisionally detained as unsafe, together with summaries, etc. [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS ACTS, 1882 AND 1890.

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with Appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, C. 9495 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRAMWAY AND GAS AND WATER ORDERS.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Tramways Act, 1870, and the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the Session of 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SEAMEN.

Copy presented, of Report of a Committee appointed by the Board of Trade on the question of Continuous Discharge Certificates for Seamen. II. Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Index [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRAMWAYS (STREET AND ROAD).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd July ; *Mr. Ritchie*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 315.]

BANKRUPTCY.

Copy presented, of Seventeenth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade under the Bankruptcy Act, 1883 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 316.]

COMPANIES (WINDING UP).

Copy presented, of Ninth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 317.]

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July ; *Mr. Thomas Shaw*] to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 318.]

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Annual Loca Taxation (Scotland) Returns for the yea 1898–9 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 319.]

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS).

Copy presented, of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1899–1900, with Statements respecting the several Colleges and Institutions aided and the experiments conducted [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th April; *Mr. Hazell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 320.]

LOCAL TAXATION (ENGLAND) ACCOUNT, 1899-1900.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st June; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 321.]

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (AREAS TRANSFERRED).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 322.]

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th July; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 323.]

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of Part II. (Accounts of County Councils and Lunatic Asylums); Part III. (Municipal Borough Accounts, etc.); Part IV. (Accounts of Metropolitan Vestries, District Boards, etc.); Part V. (Accounts of Commissioners of Sewers, etc.); Part VI. (Accounts of Highway Authorities in Rural Districts); and Part VII. (Summary) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 324.]

CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL BOARD (WAGES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th July, 1899; *Mr. Broadhurst*]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with Appendices, for the year ending 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325.]

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 326.]

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327.]

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1899. Part I. Criminal Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LUNACY (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Forty-ninth Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE (GALWAY).

Copy presented, of Report of the President for the Session 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND JUDGES COURT (IRELAND).

Copy ordered, "of Fourth Return of Estates prepared by the Registrar of the Land Judges Court, pursuant to Rules dated 23rd January, 1897, in relation to proceedings under Section 40 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328.]

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Adjournment Motions under Standing Order No. 17.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 329.]

2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25).—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 330.]

3. Divisions of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

4. Private Bills and Private Business.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

5. Public Bills.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

6. Public Petitions.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

7. Select Committees.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

8. Sittings of the House.—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed.

9. Business of the House (Days occupied by Government and by Private Members).—Return relative thereto [ordered 31st July; *Mr. Caldwell*]; to be printed. [No. 331.]

DIOCESAN REGISTRIES.

Address for "Return of the Statements received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under 7 and 8 Vic., c. 68, from the Diocesan Registrars of the Fees received by them and of the state of their Offices during the last three years."—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898.

Return ordered, "respecting Local Government Electoral Areas, showing for the whole of Ireland the number of Local Government electors and Poor Law Valuation of each county and each county electoral division therein, and of each county district (urban and rural), and each district electoral division or ward therein, and the number of county councillors for each such county and county electoral division, and of district councillors and guardians for each such county district and district electoral division or ward."—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)

LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA.

Return ordered, "of the Loss of Life at Sea for the year 1899 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 236, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SERVICE ON COMMITTEES).

Return ordered, "showing—

(*a*) Names of Members who have not served on Private Bill Committees during the present Parliament (omitting Members of the late and present Governments);

(*b*) Number of days' attendance of Members on Private Bill Committees and Public Committtes (other than Standing Committees) during the present Parliament, in the following form:—

Names of Members.	Number of days' attendance.	
	Private Bill Committees.	Public Committees (other than Standing Committees).

—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS).

Power given to the Select Committee to report their Observations.

Report, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332.]

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—OPERATIONS AGAINST TA-KU FORTS — ATTITUDE OF UNITED STATES ADMIRAL.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Mayo, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been directed to the fact that Admiral Kempff has reported to the

Government of the United States that he had declined to join in the demand for the temporary occupation of the Ta-ku Forts because it endangered the lives of people in the interior in advance of absolute necessity, for up to 17th June the Chinese Government had not committed, so far as he was aware, any act of open hostilities towards the foreign armed forces; and whether the Foreign Office are still without any information as to the refusal of the American Admiral to join the other Admirals in the demand for the surrender of the Ta-ku Forts.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): We have no information to the effect suggested in the first part of the question. In a report which reached the Admiralty on the 31st July, Rear-Admiral Bruce states that though Rear-Admiral Kempff attended the Council of the Admirals on each occasion, he did not sign the protocols, and informed Rear-Admiral Bruce that he was unable to take any action, not having received authority from Washington to do so.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Having regard to that answer, does the right hon. Gentleman adhere to his statement of 3rd July that the American Admiral acted absolutely in concert with the other Admirals?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! It is irregular to refer to a previous answer and to proceed to argue on it.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman would not have answered in any case.

ADVANCE OF THE ALLIES ON PEKING.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the forces of Great Britain and Japan are now prepared to advance in strength to the relief of the Legations and Europeans at Peking, and if he will state who is in command of these allied forces.

*MR. BRODRICK: I have nothing to add to the statement I made on Tuesday on the subject.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether or not the force has actually started?

[No answer was given.]

SOUTH AFRICA—WAR INDEMNITY—SET-OFF OF THE JAMESON RAID INDEMNITY.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in determining the amount and incidence of any indemnity to be obtained from the Transvaal, regard will be had to the indemnity admittedly due to the Transvaal Government in respect of the Jameson raid; and what steps will be taken to determine the amount equitably due to the Transvaal Government by the Chartered Company in respect of the raid, and to obtain such amount from the Chartered Company, and to include this amount in the assets of the Transvaal out of which any indemnity is to be paid.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It does not seem that the question of the indemnity due to the Transvaal in respect of the raid has any connection with the indemnity to be obtained from the Transvaal for the war. With regard to the second paragraph, I must refer the hon. Gentleman to an answer given by my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary on 15th June last.*

MR. CHANNING: Are we to understand that in taking over the Transvaal we are not taking over the assets as well as the liabilities of the Transvaal Government?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot answer any general question of that sort. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will confine himself to the question on the Paper.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the Chartered Company freed from liability?

ORANGE RIVER COLONY—TARIFFS.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state what tariff is now applied to goods imported into the Orange River Colony;

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxiv., page 142.

and, in particular, what duties are chargeable on tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes imported into that colony.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The tariff applied to goods imported into the Orange River Colony is the Customs Union Tariff which applies equally to the Cape Colony and Natal. The duty on tobacco manufactured and cut is 3s. 6d. per pound, on cigars 6s. per pound and 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, on cigarettes 4s. per pound.

TREATMENT OF REBELS — LORD ROBERTS'S PROCLAMATION IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Mayo, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Lord Roberts had authority to issue the proclamation of 1st June, announcing that after a certain date all inhabitants of the Orange Free State found in arms against his troops would be treated as rebels; whether such a proclamation is in accordance with the usages of war, and why Lord Roberts did not consult Her Majesty's Government before taking so grave a step; why the issue of this proclamation was not reported to the Government until the 28th June, and then only on an inquiry from the Colonial Office; whether the issue of this proclamation is sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government; and whether it is proposed to act in accordance with its terms.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: (1) Lord Roberts had authority to annex. Upon annexation the burghers of the Orange Free State became British subjects. His proclamation stated that inhabitants found in arms would be liable to be treated as rebels, not that they would be treated as rebels. (2, 3, 4, and 5) Under his commission Lord Roberts had power to take this step, and Her Majesty's Government have full confidence in his discretion as to any action under the proclamation.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: As a matter of fact, has he dared to treat them as rebels?

BOER TREACHERY—ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. LEROUX.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether Mr. Leroux was a justice of the peace at Vredefort under the Orange Free State Government, and whether he was reinstated in his office by the British authorities after taking the oath of allegiance; whether he has been convicted on a charge of giving information to General de Wet, by the help of which information the recent raids on the railway were carried out successfully by that general; and whether he has been sentenced to five years imprisonment; whether he can state approximately the number of our troops and Colonial troops who were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners in the railway raids referred to; and whether any other punishment is contemplated to be inflicted in such cases, with a view of deterring others from similar acts of treachery.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): No report has reached us of the alleged trial and condemnation of Mr. Leroux. The charge, if made, is serious, but it is one with which those responsible for the administration of martial law are competent to deal. Under these circumstances my hon. friend will, I am sure, agree that I should not be justified in expressing any opinion which might be held to influence either the verdict or the sentence in this or similar cases. In the railway raid of the 21st July, to which I believe my hon. friend alludes, two officers and one hundred men of the Welsh Fusiliers were captured. Both the officers and thirty-one men have since been released, one of the latter being severely wounded.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will an inquiry be held, in accordance with the Queen's Regulations, into the circumstances under which these officers and men were taken prisoners?

*MR. WYNDHAM: That does not arise out of the question. I have dealt with this subject six or seven times already, and I have nothing to add.

BOERS SIGNING PLEDGES OF NEUTRALITY.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state approximately the number of Boers who have signed conditions of neutrality and returned to their homes.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; no statement of these numbers has reached us.

SENTENCES ON PRETORIA TRAITORS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any information has yet reached the War Office of the sentences of death alleged to have been passed on Captain Tossel and Mr. Solomon Gillingham, of Pretoria; if so, what was the charge, by what tribunal were they tried, what was the sentence passed, what date was fixed for its execution, and has it been carried into effect yet, or when is it intended to be carried into effect.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. No information has yet reached the War Office.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Considersidering the hon. Gentleman told me three weeks ago that despatches were on their way home, may I ask if we are likely to get the information, or is it always to be refused when Ireland is concerned?

*MR. WYNDHAM: Most certainly we shall get the information, but I do not feel justified in sending inquiries to South Africa, for reasons I have already given.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I will repeat this question every day until I get a satisfactory answer.

POCKET FILTERS FOR SOLDIERS.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, considering the spread of enteric fever in South Africa, he will consider the possibility of increasing the number of pocket Rustem filters served out to the troops on active service there.

*MR. WYNDHAM: No filters of the kind referred to have been issued to the troops. The only filters that have passed the tests and have been issued are of the Berkefelde and Stack and Brownlow type.

PRESS CENSORS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can inform the House whether the noble Lord the Member for the Westhoughton Division of Lancashire is now serving in South Africa as military press censor; and how many, if any, other Members of this House are serving or have served at any time during the war in that capacity.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. The noble Lord is serving as chief press censor. The following hon. and gallant Members of this House have served as military press censors—namely, the Member for the Kendal Division of Westmorland, the Member for the Northern Division of Somersetshire, and the noble Lord the Member for the Chichester Division of Sussex.

MR SWIFT MACNEILL: May I ask the hon. Gentleman if he can tell me whether the chief press censor is the Tory Whip in this House?

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' COMPENSATION.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state what steps have yet been taken in pursuance of the resolution of the House of Tuesday, 1st May, relating to compensation for injuries to soldiers and sailors.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As regards soldiers killed in action or dying of wounds received or disease contracted on active service the Government propose to ask Parliament for a grant for pensions to widows, with allowances to children, as soon as the necessary rules can be drawn up by a small committee of experts. Such a system already exists with regard to the widows and children of men in the Royal Navy and Marines, and both soldiers and sailors are entitled to allowances while disabled from wounds or disease. If this plan is carried out, all subscriptions by the public will be available as additions to such pensions and allowances as may be found desirable after inquiry by local committees or otherwise in the circumstances of each particular case, so that the intention of subscribers will be fulfilled. This is the course recommended by the War Relief Fund Committee.

MR. M'KENNA: Will Parliament be asked to make provision for this purpose this session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; no Vote will be taken this session.

MR. M'KENNA: Will the compensation be equivalent to that given under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the two cases are quite different.

SETTLEMENT OF TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AFTER THE WAR.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state what are the conditions under which it is expected that some 15,000 of the troops now in South Africa will make their homes there; and whether this settlement will be carried out as part of a general scheme under the encouragement and supervision of Her Majesty's Government.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The whole question of soldiers settling in South Africa after the war is under the consideration of an Inter-departmental Committee.

AMMUNITION RESERVES.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what was the reserve of field and horse artillery ammunition in this country when the South African Republic declared war, and how many rounds per gun were sent with the batteries which went from India to Durban; and whether, in order to make up the artillery ammunition required for the war recourse was had to foreign manufacturers.

*MR. WYNDHAM: It is not desirable to state definitely the number of rounds of ammunition which are held in reserve in this country; but I may say that when war was declared in October last that authorised reserve was in existence. Five hundred rounds per gun were sent with the batteries which went from India to Durban. The answer to the second paragraph of the question is in the negative.

REINSTATEMENT OF RETIRED OFFICERS.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Oldham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether officers formerly of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, who have served or who are serving in South Africa with the Imperial Yeomanry, colonial forces, or other corps, could, if properly recommended, be reinstated in their former branch of the service.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Officers who have retired cannot be reinstated without injury to the prospects of officers still serving; there would therefore be serious difficulties in carrying out the hon. Member's suggestion except in very special circumstances.

GENERAL PRINSLOO'S SURRENDER.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can state what was the number of Boer prisoners taken with General Prinsloo on the 30th July, and also the number of horses, rifles and cannon taken on the same occasion.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Lord Roberts's telegram giving the detailed numbers was published in yesterday's papers. The number surrendered on 30th July was 986 men, 1,432 horses, 955 rifles, and one Krupp 9-pounder. Since then, on the 31s July, 1,200 men surrendered to Genera Hunter; and a further number, the tota of which is not reported, surrendered t General Bruce Hamilton, giving up 1,20 rifles, 650 ponies, and one Armstrong gun

GENERAL RUNDLE'S FORCE.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Gree S.W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretar of State for War whether he has an information which he can communicate t the House as to the condition of th British troops under the command General Rundle, who, it is stated, a starving; and, if he has no informatio will the Secretary of State for War once cause inquiry to be made.

*MR. WYNDHAM: There is no offici information, but I understand that, owin to the nature of the country and of th operations in which these troops ha been engaged, they have suffered som hardships.

GREAT YARMOUTH BARRACKS.

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmout I beg to ask the Under Secretary of St for War whether it is intended to more fully utilise the barracks and twenty-one acres of War Office ground facing the sea at Great Yarmouth; and why only some half-dozen invalids have been sent there since his statement on 1st August last year that this was one of the barracks selected to receive convalescent soldiers.

*MR. WYNDHAM: In all cases recommended by the medical officers convalescents have been sent to the barracks at Great Yarmouth. The number of cases so sent is thirty-one. The value of the land as a piece of War Department property is fully recognised, but it is not possible to determine the best method of turning it to account except in connection with a general scheme of distribution.

MILITARY BANDS AT GARDEN PARTIES.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the attention of the Secretary of State for War has been directed to the fact that the band of the Coldstream Guards played at intervals on Saturday last at Compton Place, Eastbourne, at a garden party to which the Duke of Devonshire invited nearly 4,000 members of the United Conservative and Liberal Unionist Associations of the Eastbourne Parliamentary Division of Sussex; whether the band went to the garden party with the permission of the colonel of the regiment; and whether it is with the sanction of the Secretary of State for War that soldiers in a Queen's regiment were allowed to take part in a political gathering of a party character.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Sanction was given by the colonel of the regiment. His action was approved by the General Officer Commanding the Home District, who was under the impression that the engagement was not of a political nature. I have no reason to believe so either.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the hon. Gentleman aware of the Queen's Regulation prohibiting bands from attending political gatherings? Was not this a gathering of the Primrose League?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I have no reason to believe it was a political gathering.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that cards of invitation were sent out to members of the Liberal Unionist Association for such and such a Division of this county? Is not that a political gathering?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I am not aware of it.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Then what is the hon. Gentleman aware of?

ROYAL RESERVES—STATISTICS.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state the total number of Royal Reserve men who have been re-enrolled and are now serving, distinguishing cavalry, field and garrison artillery, engineers, guards, and Line, and how many corps of each arm of the service have been formed; whether field and garrison artillery and engineers have been formed into separate Reserve units, or whether the men have been utilised to fill up vacancies in existing regular organisations; whether all such Reserve corps are in every respect fully supplied with arms, accoutrements, and other appointments, and whether the mounted portions are fully horsed; and whether these corps are fit to take the field, and have taken part in all field days with other troops where they are stationed.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The numbers are:—Cavalry, 1,586; Horse and Field Artillery, 1,518; Garrison Artillery, 1,121; Royal Engineers, 437; Foot Guards, 631; infantry of the Line 18,055; other corps, 429; total, 23,777—out of 28,262 who offered their services. Four cavalry Reserve regiments and eighteen infantry Reserve battalions have been formed; in other arms the men have been posted to existing units. The Reserve units are not yet fully supplied with arms and accoutrements; some 230 rifles, 1,250 swords, and 3,000 sets of accoutrements and 500 waistbelts remain to be supplied. The cavalry regiments are not yet fully horsed; horses are furnished gradually as the regiments apply for them. In some cases the generals under whom these units are serving consider them already fit to take the field; but in others, owing to their musketry training being unfinished or their accoutrements incomplete, they are not yet ready.

GENERAL LAURIE: Will the men of the field artillery be retained at the end of the twelve months, or will fresh men be called up?

*MR. WYNDHAM: The question of retaining for service any of these men has, as I have already informed the House, been considered, and we shall do so in some cases, though it will not be the general rule. Probably in the case of artillery there is a stronger reason for doing so than in other cases.

AUSTRALIAN AND WELSH COAL FOR THE NAVY.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can inform the House whether Australian coal, which is obtainable at Hong Kong, has been used for Her Majesty's ships now engaged in China; and if so, what is the amount so purchased; and whether he can inform the House approximately of the cost per ton to the Admiralty of Welsh coal at Hong Kong, and what is the price per ton deliverable at Hong Kong, all charges included, at which Australian coal has been offered to the Admiralty.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): No information has been received of any purchase of Australian coal at Hong Kong, and no Australian coal has been bought here for Hong Kong. Offers of Australian and New Zealand coal delivered at Hong Kong have ranged since the 1st April last from 38s. to 54s. per ton. The price of Welsh coal during the same period has been from 38s. 6d. to 61s. per ton for cargoes shipped by the Admiralty from Cardiff.

DISTILLING SHIPS.

MR. YERBURGH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Admiralty have under consideration the construction of distilling ships of adequate capacity for the service of the Mediterranean Fleet.

MR. GOSCHEN: The Board have had under consideration for some time past the provision of distilling ships for service with fleets, and two hired vessels are now under trial in the manœuvres.

PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF NAVAL CONTRACTS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee animadverting on the failure of the Admiralty to enforce penalties for breaches of contract for the amount of £113,760 under the Shipbuilding Vote in the year 1898-99, and on the failure of the Admiralty to answer the Treasury Letter relating thereto, dated 28th March 1899, and to similar animadversions in connection with Vote 9; and whether he can now state to the House the defence, if any, of the Admiralty to these censures.

MR. GOSCHEN: No, Sir. My attention has not been specially called to the Report in question. I am informed that the letter referred to did not seem to call for a reply, and that none was asked for. The defence of the Admiralty to the so-called "censures," if I wished to make one, would be that the question involved is one of administration, on which it is possible to hold opposite views, and not one of finance. I may remind the hon. and learned Gentleman once more that the policy of the present board as to penalties is still the same as that of the board of which he was a Member.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Was not the Admiralty's defence before the Committee that it was practically impossible to enforce these penalty clauses

MR. GOSCHEN: That would be a question of administration.

PENALTY CLAUSES IN ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the new form of Admiralty contract has been finally settled; and, if so, whether a copy will be laid upon the Table before the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill; and if he can explain why contracts for the delivery of armour plates and of electrical apparatus contain, as stated by the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, no penalty clauses.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): The answer to the first paragraph is in the negative. On the final revision a point of considerable importance was reserved for discussion with the Law officers. It was found impracticable to insert penalty clauses in contracts for armour plates, and with regard to contracts for electrical apparatus which are made by the Director of Navy Contracts, penalties are omitted in accordance with the general policy pursued since the formation of his Department some thirty years ago.

DISCHARGED SEAMEN—CASE OF JOHN BLYTHE.

Mr. SEELY (Lincoln): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he can reconsider the case of John Blythe, who was discharged from the Navy on the 4th May, 1900, with a gratuity, with the view to granting him a pension, as he states that he was injured in the back by a fall while on service, and is now partially paralysed.

The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): I am glad that my hon. friend has given me an opportunity of stating the facts of this case. The chairman of the Isle of Wight Board of Guardians is reported to have stated to that board that Blythe was badly wounded in the back at Zanzibar in 1896, and that he had malarial fever in the Benin expedition and was now suffering from paralysis as a result, and that it was a standing disgrace to this country that no more provision should have been made for one who had become incapacitated when fighting for his country. It would appear from the official records that these statements are wholly untrue, that Blythe was not wounded at Zanzibar, and that he was not landed in the Benin expedition. His medical history sheet shows that he was not a healthy man, but there is no record of his ever having suffered from malarial fever. I shall be glad to show it to my hon. friend if he cares to see it. Blythe had less than seven years service, and his invaliding was not due to the service. Under these circumstances the Board cannot increase the pension already awarded. I regret that the chairman of the board of guardians did not communicate with the Admiralty before making an attack based upon statements which appear to be wholly without foundation.

INDIA—POPPY CULTIVATION IN BENGAL.

*Mr. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the Reports of the Bengal Opium Department it appears that the area under poppy cultivation increased from 770,000 bighas in 1889–90 to 890,000 bighas in 1896–7; that "the increased area obtained was doubtless largely attributable to the necessitous condition of the cultivators"; and that, in the Report for 1897–8, it is stated that "food grains are selling at so high a price that the cultivators are expecting to gain more by sowing wheat, and such crops, than by sowing poppy"; and whether he will call the attention of the Indian Government to the undesirability of tempting cultivators by the offer of Government advances to sow poppy instead of more profitable food crops.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): (1) I am aware that the area of poppy cultivation in Bengal has increased, nearly as stated in the hon Member's question, between the years 1890 and 1898. The area in 1898 appears to have been considerably below that of 1897. (2) The cultivators are perfectly free to sow food or other crops as they may prefer; and if food crops are more profitable, as stated in the question, they will no doubt sow them. The present system is the result of long experience and much inquiry and consideration, in which full weight was given to the importance of controlling the traffic in opium and keeping it within bounds, and I should be reluctant to interfere with the rules and regulations of a system which has worked well.

GARRISON CHURCHES FOR PRESBYTERIAN SOLDIERS IN INDIA.

Mr. JAMES A. CAMPBELL (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can yet say what action the Government of India have resolved to take on the subject on which representations have been made by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as to insufficient provision in India of special churches or the use of garrison churches for services for Presbyterian soldiers at garrison stations.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The intentions of the Government of India have been fully explained in the correspondence laid before Parliament—namely, to establish equality of treatment, so far as the provision and use of churches is concerned, between the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. As regards increased accommodation it is proposed to build Presbyterian churches at Rawal Pindi, Sialkote, and Cherat. Inquiries are being instituted on this point elsewhere.

VENEZUELA—MURDER OF BRITISH VICE-CONSUL AT CIUDAD BOLIVAR.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give any further information as to the murder, on 26th February, of Mr. James Lyall, acting vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar; whether the Venezuelan Government have refused to try the murderer, who was taken red-handed; whether Her Majesty's Government have sent Her Majesty's sloop "Alert" to investigate the murder, and whether this means that a trial will be insisted on at an early date; and whether, considering the fact that there is evidence that this was a political crime, and that Mr. Lyall was murdered on account of his official position, Her Majesty's Government will insist upon an indemnity being paid, and in any event make adequate compensation to Mr. Lyall's family.

*MR. BRODRICK: There is no further information to give respecting the murder of Mr. Lyall. The Venezuelan Government have not refused to try the murderer, but have assured Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, who is constantly making representations on the subject, that the proceedings will be conducted properly in accordance with Venezuelan law. An early decision has been pressed for. Her Majesty's ship "Alert" has visited Ciudad Bolivar. Her Majesty's Government must await the full report of the trial before the question of demanding compensation can be considered.

FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORIES—HOURS OF LABOUR.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state what steps are being taken to prevent the working of young women and children for excessive hours in the fruit-preserving factories, and whether any improvement has taken place in this industry since attention was called to the abuse of the regulations by the report of the principal lady inspector.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The danger referred to by my right hon. friend is no new thing. It is the result of the undue latitude allowed by the Factory Acts as they stand at present, the abuse of which it is impossible to prevent without legislation. One of the clauses in the Factory Bill was designed to provide a remedy. In the meantime the law is enforced as far as it will go; and some improvement has been effected.

METROPOLITAN POLICE MAGISTRATES' JURISDICTION.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can say when the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police magistrates and county justices, which was signed in August, 1899, will be presented to Parliament.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I had not intended to publish this Report, and my hon. friend must remember that it by no means follows that Reports of Departmental Committees are presented to Parliament, but in this case I have no objection to adopt the course suggested.

THE BURIAL LAWS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a case in which the right of interment under the provisions of the Burial Laws Amendment Act of 1880 was refused; and whether the removal of a man to a hospital outside his own parish for six months deprives him of such right of interment in the churchyard or cemetery of the parish in which he has lived for ten years, and in which his family continued to reside during his stay at the hospital.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I presume the hon. Member refers to a case about which he wrote to me a few days ago. I am in communication with the incumbent on the subject; but the question as to any right of interment is one which I have no authority to determine.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: From whom can I get an opinion on the point?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I know nothing about the case, so I am afraid I cannot answer.

RYE BAY—THE REMOVAL OF THE WRECK OF THE "MONICA."

MR. LUCAS-SHADWELL (Hastings): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, notwithstanding the representations made by the Mayor to the Trinity Board on behalf of the Rye fishermen for the lifting instead of the blowing up of the "Monica," this vessel was, on 19th July, blown up, which has resulted in wreckage being scattered over the principal fishing area in Rye Bay, thus rendering losses in fishing gear inevitable, and causing danger to navigation by floating débris; and whether, seeing that the cost of blowing up the "Monica" was in excess of the expense which would have been incurred in her removal by those on the spot, ready to act on the understanding that in the event of failing to remove her they would not ask to be paid, he will represent to the Trinity Board the desirability of its showing some consideration for the interests of the fishing industry.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am informed by the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House that the wreck of the "Monica" was a serious danger to navigation and required to be dealt with immediately. They were unable to entertain the application made to them by the Mayor of Rye to lift the vessel instead of dispersing her by explosives in the usual manner in consequence of the uncertainty as to the success of the operation and the expense involved. An application was subsequently received from the Rye fishermen through the hon. Member to be allowed to undertake the work of lifting the wreck at their own expense, but in the meantime the divers had shattered the vessel beyond any possibility of lifting her. I am assured by the Elder Brethren that, when applications from the fishing interests in similar cases are made at once, and are accompanied by sufficient guarantees for payment of the expenses involved in departing from the prescribed course, full consideration will be given to them.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS—APPEAL FROM WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he is now prepared to place upon the Table of the House of Commons a Minute of the Board giving a right of appeal to teachers in cases of their alleged wrongful dismissal by managers of schools, Board and Voluntary, which receive grants under the Day School Code.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education, having considered this question, are of opinion that legislation is necessary, and they hope to introduce a Bill dealing with the subject next session.

HOLYHEAD NATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the managers of the Holyhead National School habitually bring pressure to bear upon all their teachers to attend Church of England services and to be confirmed, and that out of nine Nonconformists employed at the school seven have been obliged to comply with these demands, although the parents are Nonconformists, and that this is the only school available for a Nonconformist district; and whether, seeing that repeated applications by the Holyhead School Board to be allowed to build a school have been refused, and that the National school is generally overcrowded, he will state what steps the Board of Education will take in this matter.

SIR J. GORST: The statement in the first paragraph of the question is positively denied by the managers of the Holyhead National School. They state that "church attendance is not made a condition of apprenticeship; some of the pupil teachers attend church, some do not. One or two pupil teachers have been just admitted who are Nonconformists and wish to remain such; another who has just left after securing a Queen's Scholarship is still a Nonconformist. . . . . Nellie Roberts is free to continue apprenticeship."

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the fact that repeated demands have been made by the Education Department upon the managers of the Holyhead National School that they should sign the memorandum of agreement of Nellie Roberts, a pupil teacher at the infants' department of that school, but that, although she has been a recognised pupil teacher for over three years, these demands have not yet been complied with; and what reasons are assigned by the managers for their non-compliance.

SIR J. GORST: I have inquired both in the Department and at the Holyhead National School, and find that no such repeated demands have ever been made. Nellie Roberts had been a pupil teacher for two, not for over three, years.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that, on the 11th of April last, the Rev. Canon Thomas, one of the managers of the Holyhead National School, called Nellie Roberts and another pupil teacher before him, in the presence of the head teachers, and after inquiring of each if they were willing to attend the services of the Church of England and to assist in the Sunday school, and being answered by the first negatively, and by the second affirmatively, that he proceeded to sign the memorandum of agreement of the latter and informed Nellie Roberts that he would leave her agreement unsigned for a time so as to give her an opportunity of deciding whether she would comply with his demands that she should renounce her Nonconformity; and will he cause inquiry to be made in this case.

SIR J. GORST: I have made inquiries into this matter. The conversation alleged in the question to have taken place is declared by Canon Thomas to be incorrectly reported.

COUNTY COURT PAYMENTS AND POSTAL ORDERS.

SIR CHARLES DALRYMPLE (Ipswich): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General if he will state the reason of the arrangement by which, while in other courts postal orders are received in payment of small debts, in the City of London money orders only are received, and the exclusion of postal orders is so rigid that if they are remitted instead of money orders, a warrant to levy is issued, as if there had been no tender of payment made; and if it would be possible to make the practice of receiving money and postal orders alike, as in other courts, applicable to the City of London Court.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I have made inquiry into the subject of the question, and find that there is no uniform practice in the matter. County court registrars commonly accept postal orders, but there are a good many county courts in which they are not accepted. It is stated that a good deal of inconvenience has in some instances been found to result from remittance by postal order. The matter is, no doubt, one which deserves consideration, and I am taking steps to have in considered in the proper quarter.

PUBLICATION OF FALSE NEWS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Leitrim, I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether any proceedings are in contemplation against the responsible editors of any daily papers for the publication, during the past few weeks, of unfounded news concerning the situation in Peking, thereby causing pain to the relatives of the members of the British Legation in Peking.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: No case of the kind referred to in the question in which proceedings could properly be instituted has been brought to my notice

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Does the same decision apply to papers publishing unfounded news from South Africa?

[No answer was given.]

REGISTRATION PROBLEMS.

MR. GILES (Cambridge, Wisbech): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he is aware that an elector is now deprived of the right to vote by reason of his wife or other member of his family being an inmate of the County Lunatic Asylum, although he has duly made the weekly payment demanded of him, on the ground that he is in receipt of parochial relief; and whether, if such a case does not come within the Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Act, 1885, he will take steps to introduce a Bill to remove such disqualification.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: So far as I am aware there is no authoritative decision that the case mentioned in the question does not come within the Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Act, 1885. There is no intention at present to propose legislation on the subject.

RESERVISTS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he is aware that certain men serving in the Reserve, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteer forces in South Africa have failed to pay their rates to 5th January last, which payment is a condition of registration of a person otherwise entitled to be placed on the occupiers portion of the List of Voters; whether his attention has been called to the case of Abel *v.* Lee (1871) L. R., 6 C., p. 363, which decided that excusal by justices from the payment of rates on the ground of poverty under the Poor Relief Act, 1814, s. 11, is not equivalent to payment; and whether this case has been overruled, and whether cases where the rates have not been paid are covered by the Electoral Disabilities (Military Service) Removal Act, 1900.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The case of Abel *v.* Lee referred to in the question has not been overruled on the point to which the question relates. The Electoral Disabilities (Military Service) Removal Act of this session does not cover cases of non-payment of rates.

RECENT POSTAL DELAYS IN LONDON.

MR. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that irregularity still exists in the delivery of letters in London; and whether he can assure the House that efficient steps will be taken without further delay to restore the efficiency of the Post Office.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General assures me that he is not aware that irregularity still exists in the delivery of letters in London. If the hon. Member will furnish the covers of any letters that may appear to have been delayed inquiry shall be made respecting them.

MR. BARTLEY: May I ask my right hon. friend whether there is any distinction in the treatment of letters posted in the Eastern Central district as compared with those posted in other parts of London?

MR. HANBURY: There is this distinction, that if a letter is put in the wrong box for any district other than the E.C. district—the S.W., for instance—the mistake is corrected at the head office of that district; but, as I understand, that does not happen with regard to letters posted in the E.C. district—that is to say, no re-sorting takes place in that district office, but letters are sent on direct. It is possible delay may arise from that cause, and I will call the attention of the Postmaster General to see if some remedy cannot be applied.

COMMISSIONERS OF WOODS AND FORESTS' INVESTMENTS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state what amount was invested by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests during the financial year ended 31st March, 1899; and whether any, and, if so, what portion of this amount was invested in the purchase of ground rents; and where are such ground rents situated, and how many years purchase was paid for them.

MR. HANBURY: The amounts invested by the Commissioners of Woods in the year ending 31st March, 1899 were £185,338 8s. 9d. in purchasing estates, and £328,604 0s. 6d. in Stocks, etc. The former sum includes £98,000 invested in purchasing (at $27\frac{3}{5}$ years purchase) a freehold ground-rent at Knightsbridge, and £18,585 in purchasing (at $23\frac{7}{10}$ years purchase) an improved ground rent payable for a term of 78 years secured on Crown property in Regent Street.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR SORTERS AND TELEGRAPHISTS.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether postmen of more than twenty-five years of age are not eligible to compete for the position of sorting clerk and telegraphist until they have first passed a qualifying examination in telegraphy, and whether, as no other class of public servants have to qualify in official duties before being submitted to the educational test, the regulations will be so modified as to permit postmen over twenty-five years of age to first compete at the educational examination, and, if successful, to allow them a certain period within which to qualify in official duties before being finally promoted.

MR. HANBURY: Persons who are above twenty-five years of age and are candidates for appointment as sorting clerks and telegraphists are required, before being allowed to compete in the educational examination, to show that they have certain postal and telegraph qualifications, because persons above that age who do not possess the required qualifications find them very difficult to acquire, and their appointment without such a proviso is calculated to lead only to disappointment. It is not proposed to make any alteration in the present practice.

BRADFORD TELEPHONE SERVICE.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will explain why one part of the telephone district around Bradford is allowed to communicate by telephone with the post office at Bradford, while other parts of the same telephone district are not allowed the same privilege.

MR. HANBURY: A certain portion of the Bradford telephone area is also included in the Leeds area. Subscribers in that part may be connected with the exchange system in either area, but not with the systems of both areas. Several of the chief exchanges in the Bradford area are connected with the nearest post offices, and not with the Bradford post office. Possibly the circumstances referred to by the hon. Member are due to these facts, but if he will kindly furnish the Postmaster General with more definite particulars, full information on the subject will be furnished.

DENBIGHSHIRE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the districts of Little Mountain, Wheatsheaf, Bradley, Glanllyn, Brynissa, and Rhosrobin, all in the parish of Gwersyllt, in the county of Denbigh, contain an aggregate population of 2,041, and have only one delivery of letters each day; and whether, seeing that representations have been made to Her Majesty's Postmaster General by the Gwersyllt Parish Council as to the desirability of having a second delivery, and having regard to the population of the parish, he can promise that arrangements will be made for a second delivery of letters in the districts named.

MR. HANBURY: There is already a second post to Wheatsheaf post office with a delivery to callers after 4.20 p.m. Careful inquiry has been made as to the possibility of providing a second house-to-house delivery of letters at the places mentioned by the hon. Member, but it is found that the correspondence is not sufficient to justify the expense of such a service.

DUNDEE SHERIFF COURT — VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the recent conviction in the Dundee Sheriff Court of a number of men for failing or refusing to have their children vaccinated, and to the fact that accused pleaded conscientious objections, and on conviction preferred to go to prison rather than pay the fines imposed; whether similar cases have occurred in other parts of Scotland; and whether, having regard to the difference now existing between the laws of England and Scotland on this matter, and to the dissatisfaction created thereby, the Government will consider the question of the assimilation of the laws of the two countries on this matter.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have seen a report of the Dundee case referred to, and I am aware of similar cases in Aberdeen and Kirkcaldy. I believe such cases, however, to be very few. In the six convictions at Dundee referred to five went to prison and one paid the fine. One of the five paid the fine *pro tanto* after a detention of one day. I have reason to believe that there is a great preponderance of opinion in Scotland in favour of the existing law, and the Government do not propose to consider the question of assimilating the Scottish to the English law.

PASSENGERS' FREE LUGGAGE IN SCOTLAND.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Scottish railway companies allow their passengers a less amount of free luggage than is allowed by the English railway companies; and whether he will urge upon the Scottish railway companies the expediency of giving their passengers rights as regards free luggage at least as favourable as those allowed by the English railway companies.

MR. RITCHIE: Yes, Sir; I understand that some of the Scottish companies allow their passengers a less amount of free luggage than that allowed by English companies. This they are apparently authorised to do by the terms of their special Acts. The Board of Trade will use their good offices with the Scottish companies with the object of endeavouring to bring about a uniformity of practice in this respect.

FRASERBURGH AND ST. COMBS LIGHT RAILWAY.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any steps have yet been taken by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company to construct the light railway from Fraserburgh to St. Combs, the Order for which was obtained last year, and for the construction of which a grant has been promised by the Treasury.

MR. RITCHIE: I have communicated with the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, and they inform me that a commencement of the line has been made on their land at the Fraserburgh end, and that the company are in correspondence with the landowners who undertook to provide the other land required for the railway.

ARRAN ISLANDS (GALWAY) GRAVEYARDS.

MR. SHEEHY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any steps have been taken by the Local Government Board or other authority in preventing injury and desecration of the graveyards in the Arran Islands, Galway, by the grazing of cattle in those places; and if he will state how often within the last twelve months the sanitary inspector has visited these islands for the purpose of inspection.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): As already pointed out by me in answer to a previous question of the hon. Member, the matter referred to is entirely one for the local authority to deal with. I understand that the rural district council at their meeting held on Saturday last decided to appoint a caretaker of the burial ground. If the second paragraph refers to the subsanitary officer or medical officer of health, I can only say that both of these officials reside on the islands.

PROPOSED INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL AT PURDYSBURN.

MR. M'CARTAN (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Lord Lieutenant has received a memorial from the County Down County Council against the proposal of establishing a hospital for infectious diseases at Purdysburn near the Belfast Lunatic Asylum; whether he is aware that the Belfast Hospitals Act, 1898, under which this proposal is made is permissive and not mandatory, and that the statute is not a public statute; and whether, in the interest of the unfortunate persons mentally afflicted, he will take the whole matter into consideration, with the view of preventing the erection of any such hospital.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The county council have been informed that under the Act of 1898 the Belfast

Corporation are empowered to devote and hold for hospital purposes the whole or any part of the lands in question, and that under the circumstances the Government have no power to interfere in the matter.

IRISH TEACHERS' RESULTS FEES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Commissioners of National Education decided last June that with the first payment of the consolidated income would be remitted the equivalent of a full year's results fees, to teachers who would in every case receive full payment for all services, leaving no arrears; and that, if the results period terminated on 31st March, 1900, the teacher would be paid with the June instalment of income, the equivalent of twelve months results fees up to the 31st March, 1900, £20, and also one-fourth of his consolidated income; and seeing that the first payment of the new income was made to a number of teachers, and that in no case was the equivalent of the year's results fees paid, whether he can say why it was withheld, and when it will be paid.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Commissioners of National Education decided to make payments as stated in the question, and issued a circular on the subject. In a very large number of cases the equivalents of the results fees were issued two days after the consolidated payments for June quarter, and in most of the remaining cases the equivalents have since been sent, and the issue will soon be completed in all cases. It was impossible to complete the remittance of the equivalents concurrently with the consolidated payments, owing to the shortness of the time at the disposal of the office staff and the complexities of the calculations involved.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state whether any of the teachers of Agricultural schools under the National Board have been paid results fees for the year ended 31st March, 1900; and, if not, what is the cause of the delay.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: These schools have yet to be visited by the inspectors to report specially as to the claims of the teachers. Delay has necessarily taken place owing to the transfer of the agricultural inspector to the new Department of Agriculture. The equivalent grant will be paid as soon as possible.

IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS—SALARIES UNDER NEW RULES.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education have received a petition from the National teachers of District No. 60, pointing out the hardship which will result to them in fixing their future salaries under the new rules owing to the results of the examination held in the district for the year ending 30th April, 1898; whether he is aware that this examination was held by an inspector performing temporary duty in the district, that the results fees awarded as the result of this examination were below the average received by the teachers affected before and subsequently, and that there have been several complaints as to the character of the reports of this gentleman both in this and other districts; and whether, seeing that his reports in this district reflected injuriously on many teachers who both previously and subsequently had got excellent reports both for skill in teaching and the general management of their schools, the Commissioners propose to accede to the prayer of the petition that in calculating the future income of the teachers of this district the year in question will be excluded and another year selected instead.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Representations have been received by the Commissioners to the effect stated in the first and second paragraphs. The matter will require careful consideration and is at present engaging their attention.

FAIRYMOUNT SCHOOL, ROSCOMMON.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education can state on what grounds they refused to pay to the assistant teacher in the parish of Fairymount, county Roscommon, three quarters salary, although this amount was certified to be due by the manager of the school; and what redress they propose to offer to the lady who has been thus deprived of the money which she alleges she had earned.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed by the Commissioners that payment of salary was not allowed to the assistant teacher of the school referred to prior to the 1st October, 1899, because the necessary conditions as to average attendance and accommodation were not fulfilled, and that the circumstances of the case do not admit of any further concession in favour of this teacher.

LEYNY (NORTH SLIGO) NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, owing to the insufficiency of the Government grant for the erection of the proposed new National schools in Leyny, North Sligo, no contractor can be got to undertake the work, with the result that the children of the locality are practically deprived of the benefits of primary education, and that representations have been made on this subject to the Board of Education by the local manager; and whether, as the people of this and other congested districts in the west of Ireland are unable to supplement these grants, he will consider the advisability of having them increased.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: An application has been made by the manager of the Leyny National school containing representations to the effect stated in the first paragraph. The regulations of the Commissioners of National Education, approved by the Treasury, limit the grant to two-thirds of the cost of the buildings as estimated by the Board of Works, and the Commissioners have, therefore, no power to supplement the grant. I will make further inquiry into the matter.

IRISH POTATO CROP—SPRAYING.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any inspectors have been appointed to see that spraying is properly done in Limerick and other parts of Ireland where potato blight has set in; and, if so, whether he can give the names of the inspectors, their qualifications, and remuneration.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No inspectors have been appointed for the purpose suggested in the question, either in Limerick or elsewhere, but six persons experienced in spraying operations are employed by the Congested Districts Board in giving instruction in spraying in Donegal and Kerry. Similar instruction is afforded in Donegal, Mayo, and Galway by the six agricultural instructors in the service of the Board. A statement of the names of these persons, with their emoluments, is being prepared, and will be forwarded to the hon. Member.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Seeing that the potato blight is so very prevalent in Limerick, will an inspector be sent there?

[MR. G. W. BALFOUR'S reply was inaudible.]

BOYCOTTING AT TALLOW.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the alleged case of boycotting at Tallow, county Waterford, if he can now say to whom and in what manner such alleged boycotting is applied.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The person referred to in the question has been affected by boycotting in his trade as shopkeeper and merchant. The police have exercised and will continue to exercise the utmost vigilance in affording him every possible protection and assistance, and his position, I am informed, has considerably improved of late. It would be contrary to practice to mention his name.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Is boycotting to be the exclusive privilege of the Primrose League?

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE COURTS.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to resolutions which have been passed by certain United Irish League courts in the county of Kerry, which were identical in character with the resolutions passed by a Land League court in 1887; and whether the Irish Government proposes to take any steps to protect life and property in districts where these courts are held.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: My attention has been drawn to resolutions of the kind mentioned in the first paragraph, stated to have been passed at an indoor meeting of the Lixnaw branch of the United Irish League. The Irish Government will continue, as heretofore, to take all such measures as may appear proper for the preservation of life and property in this or any other district in Ireland.

BALLYGAWLEY PROSECUTION—M'DONNELL'S CASE.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that the Ballygawley Bench on the 17th July instant adjudicated in the case of a man named M'Donnell, summoned before them for drunkenness, and sent the accused to Omagh gaol for fourteen days without the option of a fine; whether he is aware that, in employing vehicles for the conveyance of prisoners from Ballygawley to Omagh, the police engage those of a magistrate, who is a posting master; and that other persons than the prisoner and the escort occasionally ride on those vehicles; and will these matters be inquired into.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. The summons having been amended at the hearing, the accused was convicted of having been, while drunk, guilty of disorderly conduct. The conviction was therefore legal. Vehicles for the conveyance of prisoners have been hired by the police at the posting establishment of a local magistrate. There does not appear to be anything objectionable in this practice. On four occasions persons other than the prisoners and their escort have been accommodated with seats on these conveyances, but the police have been directed not to permit this to occur in future.

ENNISKILLEN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the male sorting clerks and telegraphists employed at the Enniskillen post office are compelled to perform night duty for periods averaging eight months in each year, and that the meal times are arranged irregularly, and that the staff experience discomfort in this respect; whether the Postmaster General has received the petition which has been forwarded to him, but of which the staff has since heard nothing; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the case of these men.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is aware that the staff of the Enniskillen post office are being put to some inconvenience in the discharge of their duties, and arrangements are under consideration for removing all cause for complaint. They will, it is hoped, be carried out at an early date. The Postmaster General received the petition referred to in due course.

DUBLIN PARCELS DELIVERIES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why the parcels post deliveries in Dublin are made by the aid of vans, while the postmen in the towns of the county, such as Bray, Howth, and Kingstown, are obliged to carry heavy loads of parcels with the ordinary letter deliveries; and whether it would be possible to provide vans for the delivery of parcels in these towns as well as in the city, in order to expedite the letter deliveries and relieve the postmen of the heavy loads they are now obliged to carry.

MR. HANBURY: About two-thirds of the parcels for delivery in Dublin are taken out by van, and of the remainder some are taken out by hand carts and some by postmen. At Kingstown also about two-thirds are taken out by van, and the remainder by postmen. At Bray and Howth all the parcels are delivered by postmen. These arrangements work satisfactorily, and as care is always taken to provide against any postman being overloaded no change appears to be called for.

KILDALKEY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he has received a petition from the inhabitants of Kildalkey and the districts surrounding it asking that the midday delivery of letters now carried from Athboy to Clifton Lodge may be extended to Kildalkey; whether he is aware that under the present arrangement English letters, and letters posted in Dublin after six o'clock for Kildalkey and districts adjoining, are delayed in Athboy from midday until the following morning, and that inconvenience is thereby caused to a number of graziers and cattle traders; and whether he will see that the prayer of the petitioners is complied with.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General has received an application for a midday delivery of letters at Kildalkey, and the matter is under inquiry. The result shall be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

GRAND CANAL COMPANY OF IRELAND.

MR. M'DERMOTT (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has any information as to the alleged intention of the Grand Canal Company of Ireland to abandon the traffic on the river Shannon owing to the conduct of the Irish Board of Works; and whether he will make representations to this Board with a view to their treating the Grand Canal Company in a more generous manner.

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph is in the negative. I am informed that the Board of Works are treating the company in all respects in a very liberal manner, and that their conduct compares very favourably with that of the company towards bye-traders on their own canal. The tolls charged to the company by the Board are far below those charged by the company; and the Board are not making any profit out of them.

CORK TO FERMOY RAILWAY.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is in a position to make any further statement as to the construction of the direct line of railway from Cork to Fermoy.

MR. HANBURY: I received yesterday a letter from the Secretary to the Fishguard and Rosslare Railway Company stating, "So far as they [the directors] can see at the present time it will probably be about a twelvemonth before they will be in a position to commence the section of their undertaking from Fermoy to Cork, and I am authorised on their behalf to say that that portion of their line shall be commenced within a twelvemonth from this date." I have inquired what is meant by "commencing," and said that presumably, if this assurance is to be of any practical value, it must mean at least that the whole of the necessary land will have been taken, a contract for the construction of the line been signed, and a *bonâ fide* start made with the works themselves.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Does the correspondence show if any portion of this line has yet been surveyed?

MR. HANBURY: No.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Seeing that the Amalgamation Bill has passed through the House, I suppose the directors will choose their own time for making the railway.

ARREST OF NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS IN IRELAND.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I have to ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether Messrs. P. J. O'Keefe and E. T. Keane, manager and editor respectively of the *Kilkenny People*, were arrested yesterday morning in their office; whether the offence charged was the publication in their paper of the proceedings of a public meeting; when was the offence committed; under what Act were they arrested and charged; and why the ordinary course of proceeding by summons was departed from in this case.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is a fact that Messrs. P. J. O'Keefe and E. T. Keane, proprietors of the *Kilkenny People* newspaper, were arrested yesterday. They are charged with publishing a notice purporting to be a report of the proceedings of the Mullinahone branch of the United Irish League and advocating the boycotting of Barton Brothers. The newspaper containing the notice was dated 2nd June, 1900. The prosecution is under one of the Whiteboy Acts (1 and 2 Will. IV., c. 44). The defendants were, on the advice of the Attorney General, arrested on warrants grounded on sworn informations, that being the most expedient mode of procedure under the circumstances. No unnecessary inconvenience was inflicted on the accused, who were admitted to bail.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: In consequence of that answer, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of calling attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the arbitrary arrest on warrant of Mr. Patrick J. O'Keefe, and Mr. E. T. Keane, manager and editor respectively of the *Kilkenny People* newspaper, for having published the proceedings of a public meeting, instead of the institution of proceedings against them by summons, as is usual in the case of press offences.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will read the Sessional Order as to the last two days of Supply he will find that on those two days no such motion can be accepted.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: If there is no other opportunity of bringing this matter before the House I will do so on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! This is not the time for making a speech.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES—THE ACQUITTAL OF SIPIDO.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether Her Majesty's Government made any representations to the Belgian Government in consequence of the result of the trial of the Anarchist Sipido, what was the nature of such representations, and what reply was received from the Belgian Government.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Her Majesty's Government have informed the Belgian Government that they consider the result of the proceedings in connection with Sipido to be a grave and most unfortunate miscarriage of justice, and that they have learned with great surprise and regret that the Belgian Government did not see fit to detain Sipido pending a decision as to the course they should take in view of the verdict of the jury. The Belgian Government have not yet replied.

COAL SUPPLY—SUGGESTED ROYAL COMMISSION.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the growing scarcity and dearness of coal, and in view of the altered circumstances of the Trade since the inquiry into our coal resources made by Royal Commission a generation ago, and the fact that experience has shown the conclusions of that Commission to be erroneous, he can now see his way to cause a fresh inquiry to be made in order to remove the uncertainty that prevails as to the quantity of coal remaining unworked and available for naval, domestic, manufacturing, and commercial purposes.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the scarity and dearness of coal have any relation to the larger issue dealt with in the main part of the question. The question of a revised survey of the coalfields is, I understand, engaging the attention of a Committee now sitting in regard to the geological survey, and a Report will be made to the Lord President of the Council. I think it will be found useful to collect tabulated information with a view to determining whether it is necessary to hold further inquiry into this very important subject.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Will the right hon. Gentleman give an explanation as to the business for to-morrow and Monday?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think I have any detailed information to give. As the right hon. Gentleman knows, to-day and to-morrow are allocated to Supply. After that we shall do our best to hurry through the remaining Orders of the Day, which are not of a controversial character. If the House will consent to expedite matters, there ought to be no difficulty in proroguing on Wednesday.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Customs Duties (Isle of Man) Bill, without amendment.

That they have agreed to—Agricultural Holdings Bill, and Post Office Sites Bill, with Amendments.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 320.]

DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Mr. Speaker, it is only a few hours ago that I had to ask the House to pass a resolution expressing our sympathy with the misfortune that had befallen the people of Italy, and our horror at the dastardly crime by which that misfortune was caused. I now have to ask the House again to pass a vote of sympathy, but, if possible, this motion is one which touches us more intimately and more nearly than that which I moved on Tuesday last, for the subject of my resolution is a Prince of our own Royal House, a countryman of our own, and a sailor of the British Navy of distinguished capacity. Mr. Speaker, the Duke of Coburg's death is not surrounded by those circumstances of violence and crime which attended that other Royal death to which I have referred, but in its suddenness and in its unexpectedness it produces, and must produce, an equal shock, an equal pain, an equal sympathy with those who are the most immediate sufferers. His Royal Highness was not only, as I have said, a Prince of our Royal House, and a member of one of the noblest and most exacting professions, but the high authorities I have consulted are unanimous in telling me that he worked at that profession in no holiday spirit, and that he excelled as a sailor in competition with the very best of those with whom he was brought into contact. He worked his way through the ranks of that service, and when he reached the highest post of responsibility as Commander of the Mediterranean Fleet he proved himself to be not only an unequalled master of detail in all that concerned the naval service, but, what is of even more importance and is even of rarer occurrence, he showed himself to be a master of naval tactics—to excel in the manipulation of a great modern steam fleet. It was not given him in actual war to show how his great naval accomplishments could have been brought practically to the service of his country, but the work which he did in his profession was of the kind for which I think we, who depend upon the Navy for our very existence, may well bear him national gratitude. Sir, these are reasons why we should remember with respect and sorrow, on his own account, the Duke of Coburg; but it is not simply in relation to the great loss that has been sustained by his death that I ask the House to pass this resolution. The motion which I have put on the Paper expresses more than this; it expresses the sympathy of the House and of the country, so far as this House represents it, towards the wife and towards the mother. Those, Sir, are not feelings which I should care to do more than to indicate on an occasion like this, but they are present to all our minds. When the wife with whom we sympathise is one who has gained so much of the affections of the people of these islands as her Imperial Highness the Duchess of Coburg, and when the mother is the Queen of this country, whose sorrows are our sorrows and whose joys are our joys, then, Sir, I feel that this resolution will be passed by the House with more than common feelings of earnest sympathy. I do not think it is necessary to add anything to what I have said, or to reinforce the words of the resolution themselves, for I know that they will commend themselves to the hearts and to the feelings of every man whom I am addressing, be his opinions or his politics what they may. I will therefore content myself with asking the House to accept the motion standing in my name.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Sir, it is not a mere formal duty that the right hon. Gentleman invites the House of Commons to discharge. In passing this resolution, we not only follow former precedents and walk in the path prescribed by constant usage, but it is the instinct of our hearts that we obey—the instinct of loyalty and devotion, and I may even say, of gratitude and affection. It has often been said of our gracious Queen—and our experience down to the most recent days amply vouches for it—that she suffers with all the sufferings of her subjects. Not less is it true, Sir, that any sorrow which affects the Queen or her Royal House touches deeply the hearts of all her people. And when, as on this occasion, a beloved son is taken from her by the awful stroke of death, it is the desire, quite as much as the duty, of the House to approach the Throne with dutiful expressions of sympathy. The Queen has made her life a life of duty, and therefore of happiness, and she has not been spared by the heavy hand of affliction, a hand which rests equally upon the palace and the cottage; and our earnest hope is that she may support this most recent stroke with the same fortitude which has been proved before, and that Her Majesty's health, so precious not only to us and the people of these islands, but to the whole Empire—and I will even say to the whole world — may be fully sustained. Sir, it is, however, not only feelings of grief and sympathy that inspire us at this moment; we have also in our breasts a sentiment not less genuine, a sentiment of cordial regret. The Duke of Coburg was not only a German reigning Sovereign, he had not ceased to be a British Prince; and while we share the admiration with which his subjects and neighbours have seen him loyally and successfully set to work in his new duties and accomplish all that was required of him, and seen the skill with which he merged the old Prince in the new ruler, we still remember him and think of him rather as the Duke of Edinburgh than as Duke of Coburg. We remember the part he played in our national life, the readiness he showed on all occasions, as his Royal brothers and sisters have ever done, to display interest in any patriotic and philanthropic purpose. We remember, above all, the career which the right hon. Gentleman has referred to, his devotion to the noble profession to which from his boyhood he belonged, and the great service which, while he followed his seaman's career, he rendered to his country. I do not know if I am going too far in saying this, but surely when we see how this Prince, so essentially British by birth, by training, by associations, by sympathies, by his whole career—when we see how he was able with the most perfect success to fill the *role* of a loyal, unimpeachable, and acceptable German ruler—surely we may believe that there is something between these two great nations, some affinity, some element of homogeneity, which will triumph over every passing suspicion or passing jealousy, and over the narrow views of selfish men. Therefore it is with grateful feelings that we record our sense of the loss which both nations have, by this Prince's death, sustained, and while we thus think of the Queen and her Royal House, and of the nation, we do not forget the widowed Duchess of Coburg and her daughters, and we tender to them our respectful sympathy. I beg, Sir, to second the motion.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente,* That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to express the deep concern of this House at the great loss which Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., second son of Her Majesty the Queen, and to condole with Her Majesty on this melancholy occasion; to assure Her Majesty that this House will ever feel the warmest interest in whatever concerns Her Majesty's domestic relations; and to declare the ardent wishes of this House for the happiness of Her Majesty and her family.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of Her Majesty's Household.

Resolved, *nemine contradicente,* That this House do condole with Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, on the great loss which she has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Ordered, That a message of condolence be sent to Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, and that Mr. Speaker do communicate the said message to Her Majesty's Minister resident at the Court of Saxony and Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, with a request that he will attend Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh, for the sake of conveying it to Her Royal and Imperial Highness.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair].

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS II.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £45,501, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the

charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Some hon. Members may take the view that it is possible and useful on this occasion to discuss our foreign relations in the ordinary sense of the word, but I confess it would be difficult for me to imagine an occasion more unsuitable than the present for a general discussion on the state of our foreign relations. Our relations with foreign Powers have been described to us very recently by the Prime Minister in language to which reference was made in the debate yesterday in the remarkable speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth. I agree that if we had a serious discussion on the alarming state of things revealed it might not conduce to the continuation of those good relations which now exist in the neighbourhood of Peking, and to the advance towards Peking to which the country attaches so much importance at the present time. But although this is not an occasion on which we can properly discuss our foreign relations generally, still we may usefully ask questions in order to elucidate the policy of the Government. To discuss that policy, to try and probe it to the bottom, and to try and throw the responsibility where ultimately it will be thrown would not conduce to those good relations between the allied Powers which we all desire to have continued, especially at the present moment, when we are executing allied operations in China under circumstances of the greatest gravity. A Blue-book which was lately laid before the House shows certain symptoms of difference on certain points, and indicates certain temporary divergences between the allied Powers; and for us to insist on taking advantage of any rifts that may appear would be, I confess, a task which I for one should not attempt to undertake, and which would not be to the interest of the country. Of course, in China, as generally, it is impossible to avoid seeing the obvious fact that our foreign relations are at this moment coloured by our colonial affairs, and that the war in South Africa must have a marked effect on our diplomacy throughout the world. There are only two questions to which I will call the attention of the Committee before I come to a matter on which I wish to ask the judgment of the Committee. These two matters appear to have grown out of our situation in South Africa. A statement has been made during this session by the Government with regard to Corea which may have the gravest consequences in the future, and which I think ought not to pass without some statement on the present occasion, which is the first occasion on which the Foreign Office Estimates have been taken since that statement was made. There was not in actual words any great difference between what was said by the present Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and what was said some years ago by the hon. Baronet for the Berwick Division; but there is a difference in tone which I confess appears to me to be marked, and I shall be very glad indeed if the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs is able to-day to remove the impression which has been produced in the minds of a good many hon. Members on both sides of the House. The Committee will remember that at the time when this country evacuated Port Hamilton, long negotiations took place in which Her Majesty's Government were concerned, they not being negotiations between China and Russia alone. As a result of these negotiations, there was laid before the House of Commons a Parliamentary Paper which showed that Russia had made a promise to China—which we noted and informed Parliament of—to the effect that Russia would not occupy at any future time any Corean territory. The late Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was asked questions at various times as to whether, under the altogether changed circumstances, that promise was still binding, and he made a distinct statement which it is unnecessary for me to quote—he is present and will correct me if I am wrong—that that promise was in the middle of 1895 still binding, and there was no reason to suppose that down to the present year it had in any way ceased to be binding. But when the present Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was asked not very long ago a question on the matter, I confess I thought he went rather out of his way, in a manner which the form of question did not render necessary, to state that the assurance given by Russia was not an assurance given to Her Majesty's Government, but an assurance given to another Power; and although I still hope he may be able to remove the impression which these words created, he will not deny the fact they did create an uneasy impression, and that they in some degree weakened the position as it was left by the Parliamentary Paper and the assurances of the hon. Baronet. He seemed to imply that an assurance given to China under the circumstances was not an assurance given to us, and did not form in any sense a guarantee to us as regards the future. It was called a guarantee in the "Map of Europe by Treaty," which is generally looked upon as a semi-official publication. I need hardly suggest to the Committee the notorious fact that most of our Far-Eastern guarantees, both territorial and for our trade, depend upon assurances of this kind which have been given to other Powers, and which we have always treated as being substantially given also to ourselves. The other of the two matters I wished to mention in this connection concerns the recent agreement with Germany, known as the Samoan Agreement. There also South Africa has played a very leading part. The Samoan Agreement is one which at first sight appears to be satisfactory to Australia and New Zealand as regards their trade, because the islands named are covered by an extension of the Free Trade provisions which have previously concerned islands subject to an arrangement between Germany and ourselves. But that feeling of satisfaction is not entertained in Australia and New Zealand—for this reason. This freedom of trade has been broken down in practice by a licence system. These licences are nominally given to the subjects of all Powers, but in practice Australians and New Zealanders engaged in trade in the islands have found that the licences are refused, for one reason or another, to firms in which there is not a German manager. Unless firms, nominally New Zealand or Australian, have German managers or German capital it is very difficult for them to obtain these licences, and the freedom of trade provisions are thus rendered nugatory. The Prime Minister of New Zealand has made a very important declaration on this point. He shares the view I have put before the Committee that it is our South African embarrassments which have caused us to conclude this agreement, and he has said that there can be no doubt that had a council of the colonies been held it would have averted what he believed was inimical to Australia and New Zealand—namely, the Samoan Agreement. In that agreement the Germans give up something to which they had no right. They give up their rights in Tonga, where they have never had any rights at all. The worst point in the agreement, in my opinion, is that which concerns the two Solomon Islands which are picked out as our share and given by Germany to us. These islands are inhabited by a population probably always ferocious, but the feelings of which toward Europeans have not been improved by the kidnapping of their people through the help of bribes to chiefs, which has been carried on for many years partly by our own countrymen, but largely by the subjects of other Powers. The bad point to which I wish to refer is that under the agreement the Germans are to continue to enlist labour in these islands, although they are nominally under British protection, and to carry on this practice of kidnapping. I have now finished these general remarks. If I were dealing with the matter more widely I should endeavour to convey to the Committee my sense of the crudity of these attempts to patch up our relations with the German people by little sacrifices of this kind. The whole Government policy towards Germany, with its occasional proclamations of an alliance which does not exist, and occasional attempts to secure an alliance in a mode calculated to defeat its own object, might be made matter of remark, but I prefer to confine myself to these two cases, in which I cannot but think our South African embarrassments have gravely influenced our policy in a way which is open to the comments I have made. I will now pass to a matter upon which I wish to take the judgment of the Committee to-day. It is a matter which several of us mentioned last year, and upon which we should then have taken the judgment of Parliament but for the fact that at a late period in the debate a complete surrender, as we thought, to our views was made by the Government. It did not enter my mind that it would be necessary to raise the question this year. It seemed to me that we had accomplished

Sir Charles Dilke.

our object, and obtained all we asked for. No doubt I interpreted the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a wide, but still in that generous sense in which we always interpret declarations of Ministers in this House—generous, that is, in the sense of seeing in those declarations a little more than the words actually used, and believing that when the probability of a settlement is announced in cheerful tones a settlement is really and closely in view. It is the matter of Waima to which I refer. It is a case in which there has been dreadful delay, and under circumstances which reflect upon the national honour. It was the case fourteen months ago, and, therefore, still more is it the case now, that the time had come for a settlement. Personally, I feel that, unless we can settle this matter to-night, it is useless for us to bring it before the House of Commons year after year. It is a small matter, but it is one of great importance from its bearing on the manner in which statements in Parliament are to be interpreted——

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Perhaps I can save the right hon. Baronet going further into the matter. I have a statement to make with regard to Waima which I think will be satisfactory to the whole Committee.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I am very glad to hear it, and I will not go into the details of the matter. I will simply say that last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the debate on the 9th June, used these words—the Committee will by them be able to judge whether the statement of the Under Secretary to-night is of a sufficiently definite character to render it unnecessary to continue the debate on this point—

> "This is a case in which compensation has been demanded from the French Government, but until the last few days we have had no real reason to suppose that the request for compensation would be favourably considered by the French Government."

And then he made an announcement in the following words—

> "I am happy to be able to say that very recently we have had reason to believe that this matter may be favourably considered by the French Government."

I hope we shall have to-night an absolutely definite statement that this matter has been arranged. After that debate £200 was given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer—£80 to the family of one of the officers, and £60 each to the families of two others who were killed on that occasion—but I do not know that any relief has been given to the dependents of the sergeant-major of the West Indian Regiment or of the seventeen non-commissioned officers and men who were killed or severely wounded. However that may be, the sum of £200 was given, and now there has been these fourteen months further delay. On the 17th May the Under Secretary was asked how matters were progressing, and he then stated that we had sent a note to France, but had had no reply. On the 28th June the hon. Member for the Leek Division asked for a copy of the despatch of the 29th March which had been addressed to the French Government on the subject; but that despatch was not given. What I gather has occurred is this: In January we had already reached the point of having said there should be arbitration on this question, but another case, that of the detention of a ship on the Niger, had been mixed up with it. In January we accepted the principle of arbitration on that case also, and £5,000 was fixed as the lower limit of the amount of money we might be called upon to pay. In March the upper limit of £8,000 was accepted, but I believe in the despatch asked for it was found that again another case, that of Lieutenant Mizon in 1892, had been mixed up in the matter. I wish the Under Secretary to make it clear to us whether this case is now to be considered by itself or mixed up with other cases. I hope a definite announcement will be made that the matter will not be left as it has been, so that we may not feel that, while we paid more or less cheerfully and at once £10,000 in connection with Uganda in regard to a matter which occurred much later than this, and in which we have never admitted we were in the wrong, yet this matter is allowed to drag on from December, 1893, notwithstanding the statement of last year to which I have referred. I beg to move the reduction of the Vote by £100, but, of course, I shall withdraw the motion if the statement of the hon. Gentleman is satisfactory.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by

£100 in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I have heard with great pleasure the announcement that this Waima case is in course of settlement. It is a very serious case, and has dragged on for a very long time. I brought it repeatedly before the House myself from 1893 to 1895. I am glad to know now that that is going to be settled in a satisfactory way. With regard to the conditions which very seriously affect British commerce and manufactures in the Ottoman Empire I should like to say a few words. We go very far afield in search of commerce. Our difficulties in China are practically caused by the commercial enterprise of our people, and yet for a long period of years we have been neglecting, and I am afraid we are still neglecting, a very large field which is much nearer and far more easy of access for British commerce and manufactures. There are two or three cases that I should like to bring to the attention of the House which are of great interest to British manufacturers at the present moment, as showing the difficulties with which they have to contend. One case I have endeavoured to bring to the attention of my right hon. friend by the unsatisfactory method of question and answer, but without much success. I refer to the re-armament of the Turkish fleet. The history of this case in itself summarises the difficulties with which British traders have to contend. The Ottoman Government invited tenders for the re-armament of a certain number of Turkish war-ships. The English tenders were £80,000 below the German tenders, and our guns are said to be better, longer, and to carry further than German guns—I may say that I am not connected with this business and have no interest whatever in it—although that tender was made and the Turkish Minister of Marine was strongly in favour of giving that contract to the British firm, great pressure was brought to bear upon the Turkish Government by the highest influence in Germany. The decision was held over and an opportunity given for the German firm to tender again. The German firm reduced their tender, and the English firm reduced its tender, with the result that there was the same difference in the tenders. The English tender was still £80,000 lower. In spite of that the British firm was unable to get the order, and the last I heard of it was that tremendous pressure was being brought to bear upon the Turkish Government to give their order to the German firm. It is not fair that British manufacturers should be subjected to this kind of political competition, and if it is continued I hope the British Minister at Constantinople will be asked not merely to make one casual representation, but to make constant and vigorous representations upon this subject. I make no complaint as to the action of our Ambassador at Constantinople, who, I believe, is fully alive to the course of events. I merely wish to call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to the fact that this unfair German pressure is being continued. In connection with railway construction there is an enormous field open to British manufacturers; there is, perhaps, no other country in the world which offers such an opening for railway construction that would so benefit the people of the country itself and outside communities as the Ottoman Empire. There is no country in the world where railway construction would do so much good to improve the condition of the people at large and those interested in commerce. There is a railway which everybody has heard of for years—the Bagdad Railway, or the Euphrates Valley Railway. The competition for the Euphrates Railway has been going on the last thirty years, and lately has been renewed. British contractors undertook to construct that railway on terms which would have been advantageous to all concerned. What is the result? The English offer was far more advantageous than the German offer, but, owing to the great political pressure which Germany brought to bear, the British firms were pushed entirely out of the field, and the Germans obtained the concession. And what did they do? They took advantage of their position to double the former estimate for the railway, and they have demanded of Turkey an enormous kilometric guarantee amounting to £1,000,000 a year. This is twice as much as is needed, and is only asked in order to swell the profits of the German financers. Such demands as the successful Germans are making are impossible for Turkey to bear, and only render the construction of the railway practically impossible, and cause great injury to trade and greater injury to British manufacturers. I hold that the influence of our Government ought to have been more strongly asserted in support of the British capitalists who were endeavouring to obtain that concession. After Germany had obtained this concession, what else happened?—and this is a far more serious matter. The Russians, not to be outdone, came down and put more political pressure upon the Turkish Government in order to obtain the monopoly to construct all the northern lines in a large district of Asia Minor, and by the mobilisation of an army of 100,000 men upon the Turkish frontier, they succeeded. They have obtained the monopoly for railway construction in the whole of northern Asia Minor, where there are districts of great wealth. It would be an enormous boon to the people if railways are constructed; but the Russians have no money to construct them, and do not intend to do so. Everybody else is debarred, because of the monopoly which has been created, and a great injury will be inflicted upon Turkey, and upon British commerce and manufacture. There is railway construction to the amount of from £20,000,000 to £50,000,000 to be done in Turkey, and it is all being lost to British manufacture. I have ventured to go into some detail, because these are questions of great importance; but the question upon which I wish to trouble the House to-night—and it is a question which excites universal interest in this country —is the condition of affairs in China. We have indeed reason to be grateful that the news which has reached this country during the last few days is of a more satisfactory and cheerful character than most people could have anticipated a few weeks or even days ago. There is not a Member of this House who will not rejoice to know that the Ministers of the Powers at Peking are, so far as we know to-day, in a state of comparative safety. But, although we are relieved from the immediate and most grievous anxiety with regard to their condition, yet the position is still serious and is not likely to diminish in gravity as the allied or British forces go up to Peking. Many of us have been surprised during the past eight weeks at the delays which have occurred at taking active measures for the relief of the beleaguered Ministers and Europeans in Peking. This is the 2nd of August. Eight weeks have now elapsed since the world knew that the situation was one of extreme seriousness, and certainly seven weeks have now elapsed since it was known that the position of the Legations was one of extreme peril; still no serious attempt was made for their relief, although now at last it seems possible that a forward movement has begun. Why has this long delay taken place in the expedition for the relief of the Legations and the Europeans in Peking? Why were not steps taken earlier to seek the active help of the only Power who could send a force immediately to their relief—Japan? The first distinct request to Japan was made on the 25th of June. Why was not that request made three weeks earlier, when the gravity of the position was known, and why was it not pressed more actively? We are now over five weeks from that date, and, so far as we know, no considerable Japanese force is yet on its way to Peking. It would have been possible, if the Government had made clear representations to Japan that she would have been sure of support from this country in case of her taking action, for the Japanese forces to have reached Peking at the outside within four weeks. The British despatch of 6th July, guaranteeing support to Japan, ought to have been sent on 8th June. As it has turned out, the most awful and terrible catastrophe which we feared had taken place has been most mercifully avoided, but the question of delay is one which I feel justified in pressing upon the attention of the House, and one with regard to which we are entitled to have some explanation. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean in his speech deprecated any reference to the difficulties of the political position in China for reasons which he did not explain in detail, but in general terms he dreaded the endangering of the so-called Concert of Europe. The right hon. Baronet has a very good reason for trying to defend "the Concert of Europe," because that interesting fiction originated at the period when he was Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Government of Mr. Gladstone. Then we heard for the first time of what I call the mischievous fiction of the Concert of Europe put forward as a serious item of political belief. I hold that what is called the Concert of Europe is the curse of all our dealings with those Eastern questions, and is likely to prove a still greater danger than it has been in the past. I hold it for this reason: "the Concert" is a chimera. It does not exist. There is no real concert, and there can be no real concert. To suppose that British policy in China can be identified with Russian policy, or even French policy, is to blind ourselves to the essential conditions of the whole Chinese problem. History in the past has shown the absurdity of this effort. Whenever we have tried to adapt our policy to the Concert of Europe we have failed. Between 1880 and 1885 Mr. Gladstone's Government failed in everything through trusting to this fictitious Concert. Again, we have had examples in recent times under the Government of Lord Rosebery and under the present Government, from 1893 to 1898, when the same Concert was tried with the same result of failure. We saw what happened in regard to the Armenian policy, the Greek policy, and the Cretan policy of the British Governments. All these were based upon the alleged Concert of Europe, which never existed, and which led to infinite trouble and suffering to our *protégés*, a great deal of disgrace for England, and to war. It was only when the Government cut themselves adrift from the will-o'-the-wisp of a Concert that we achieved the real successes of Fashoda and South Africa. I say deliberately that if the Government are basing their policy in China upon the supposed Concert of Europe, which does not and cannot exist, they are bound to end in grievous danger, and probably in war. No other result can happen. Ministers may blind themselves for a time. They may blind a large number of the Members of this House and a great proportion of the people of this country by a phrase which is always agreeable and tickling to the palate. Representatives of either Front Bench are fond of deceiving themselves with it, and especially the right hon. Baronet, who always says ditto to the Front Bench on any question of the Concert of Europe. However much Ministers may blind themselves and the country they are bound to end in disappointment and disaster. The position of affairs in China shows that we have come to the parting of the ways in our policy towards that country. It will be impossible after this present revolution or rising is put down for this country to allow affairs to go on in China in their old course of drift. There has been nothing but drift in our policy towards China for the last seven years. It will be necessary for the Government to have a policy in China—a clear and defined policy. They will have to adopt a policy based not on the supposed Concert of Europe, which does not exist, and never will exist, but upon all the support they can get from the Great Powers whose interests are the same as theirs and whose views coincide with theirs. We began the policy of drift in China in 1893, when gentlemen on that bench allowed Japan to be driven out of the Liao-Tung peninsula. That paved the way for the present troubles. I believe some of the then Ministers agreed with reluctance to allow Russia to have her way; but they actually did permit Japan to be driven out of the strong positions she had so gallantly conquered. Russia actually expelled Japan from Port Arthur on the hypocritical excuse that it was dangerous for any other Power than China to have possession of Port Arthur. The next crisis came under the present Government, and it was when the Russsan Government requested that our men-of-war should be removed from Port Arthur. This Government allowed our men-of-war to be removed. The Russian Government solemnly stated that they had no design upon Port Arthur, a pledge soon to be deliberately broken by the Czar. That was the second stage in the great policy of drift. It has been going on since. Everyone who looks to what has happened in China must realise that Her Majesty's Government have had no real, determined, and defined policy with regard to that country. Unless the Chinese question is to be opened up in all its vastness and dangers, and unless we are to have throughout the length and breadth of China 400,000,000 people rising against every form of European civilisation, and certain Great Powers struggling to get a hold over China which will keep our commerce out of the country, the British Government must have a clear policy in this matter. What is that policy to be? I venture to say that the time has come —and herein I differ from the right hon. Baronet—for Members of this House who have clear views upon this subject to express them, and to try to induce the Government to adopt a policy which seems to them to be wise in the interests of this country, and for the maintenance of the general peace of the world. There are only two policies, I venture to say, possible in China for the future. I put on one side the policy of drift as hopeless and as unworthy of consideration. The two policies which I venture to describe as possible with regard to China are, firstly, deliberate partition, and, secondly, the maintenance of the independence and the integrity of the Chinese Empire. There are various phases of the partition policy if you like. You may call it a sphere of influence or occupation, but sooner or later it is bound to result in a partition policy. I know that such a policy, in a modified form, is advocated by certain hon. Members. The hon. Member for Chester and his friends have been, in a sort of tentative way, advocating a policy of partition in China. I hold that that policy is most inadvisable and most dangerous. I want to deal at as close quarters as possible with the difficulties into which those hon. Members, I think from want of knowledge, are gradually drifting. They are advocating what they call a Yang-tsze-Kiang Protectorate or sphere of influence. They want us to treat northern China as lost, and they say, "Make up for the loss of northern China by getting possession, so far as we can, of the great central valley of China, which lies around the Yang-tsze river." If that policy were practicable there might be a good deal to be said for it, but it is no use proposing to yourself a policy which you are unable to carry out. Let me ask my hon. friends one or two questions on this subject, and see how they are prepared to deal with the practical difficulties. What you would have to do would be to establish a protectorate over nearly 200,000,000 people. You would have to be prepared to set up in central China another India, and to have an army of 250,000 men to maintain your power there, or to try to maintain your power. I do not think you would be able to maintain that policy. It is a policy that would set the whole of China against you at once. It is most dangerous, therefore, on that account. It would unify China against this country, and perhaps against all the Powers of Europe. The United States is against such a policy. It is a policy that would set the United States against us, because the United States have made declarations against any territorial partition of China. I doubt very much whether it is a policy for which you would get the support of the German Emperor, and without German support you could not undertake a policy of that kind. The most serious difficulty in relation to this policy, and one with which I have never seen any attempt to deal——

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I am sorry to interrupt my hon. friend, but I have never advocated the partition of China.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I dealt with that contradiction of my hon. friend in my opening remarks with reference to him, but I am afraid they did not receive from him the attention which I hoped they might have done. Though my hon. friend may not use the word "partition" of China, and may even repudiate it, as he has just now done, yet his policy of a sphere of interest or influence, or whatever you like to call it, in the Yang-tsze valley must in the long run, if it means anything at all, and if it is not mere empty verbiage, come to a protectorate. If the hon. Gentleman can get out of that difficulty, I shall be very glad to hear how he does it. He cannot get out of that. He can only indulge in vague generalities. Perhaps he does not mean partition, but in order to maintain a sphere of interest or influence, or practical British commercial preponderance in the Yang-tsze valley, which is what he means, he can only maintain it by a great army and an administrative organisation. I do not think this country is prepared yet, at all events, to set up a second India in the heart of China. The point I wish to put to the House is that the Yang-tsze-Kiang valley is, from the military point of view, very indefensible. There are no effective strategical positions from which you can defend it against attack from the north. What does a protectorate over the Yang-tsze valley mean to us? It means that the north of China, with a population numbering anything from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000, is to be abandoned to Russia. What will Russia do then? The first thing that Russia does in any country over which she gets control is to introduce conscription. She will make the Chinese of northern China into splendid soldiers, and we have seen that the Chinese can fight when they are pushed to it. The north of China will be turned into a great recruiting ground for Russia, and in the course of a few years we shall have to face an army of half a million Chinese, disciplined, armed, and led by Russia. What will become of my hon. friend the Member for Chester and his school then? Where will they set up their line of defence? How will they guard the Yang-tsze valley against these vast forces from the north? These are the practical questions which everybody who wishes to regard the future of China from a practical point of view must consider. You cannot divide China without setting up an enormous organisation and army in the centre of China if you intend to hold it. Even then you will not be able to hold it, because the military power of Russia in the north will be so much greater than your own, and will be more unscrupulously directed and worked than you can ever hope to work your defence. For these reasons I hold that the policy of partition, protectorate, sphere of interest, or whatever you like to call it, is impracticable, and ought to be resisted by this House. Now I come to the alternative policy—that of maintaining the independence and integrity of China. The House is committed to this policy already. The hon. Member opposite smiles. Why should he laugh?

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): If the hon. Member wishes to know why I laughed, it was because that policy has already been abandoned.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Then the laugh of the hon. Member is based on want of information. I deny that the policy of maintaining the independence of China has been abandoned by Her Majesty's Government. There may have been some signs of abandonment and some mistakes committed, but if the hon. Member will examine what has been done by this country and by Germany, and even by France, in regard to China, he will find that at all events the formal integrity of China has been recognised, because all the occupations of territory have been in the nature of leases. The same safeguard applies less to the action of Russia at Port Arthur, although even there the form of lease has been observed. Our great mistake was, of course, in allowing Russia to establish herself there, and that action will continue to have a disastrous effect in China until it is undone. Her Majesty's Government have not yet abandoned the policy of maintaining the independence and integrity of China, and I sincerely hope they will not abandon it. They are committed to it, and it is the only policy in which they can hope to succeed. It is a policy which will bring to their support the 400,000,000 people of China; it is a policy which will get for them the support of Japan, which is all important, because Japan holds the key of the position; it is a policy which will get for them the support of the United States, which also is important; and it is a policy which will, I believe, get for them the support of the German Empire and of its great ruler. No Power could upset such a combination as that. We have been told that Manchuria is absolutely lost, that Russia has it already. I deny it. Recent events show that Russian military control over that province is comparatively slight, and that it rests upon a very precarious foundation. A distinct statement on the part of Her Majesty's Government that further inroads upon the integrity of China would not be permitted would have the effect of at once stopping this aggression on the part of Russia. There is one other subject to which it is necessary to refer in dealing with this question, and that is the influence which a certain Great Power has for some time exerted in China, and which, I believe, is responsible very largely for the present unfortunate revolution in that country. The policy of our great rival in China is exactly the policy that it has been for many years pursuing in Turkey. Russia desires to maintain China in a state of bad government and rottenness. That is a fact which the Government have to deal with in any arrangements they make for the future. I shall probably be denounced for making this statement; it will be called a provocative statement; but it is well the truth should be known. This Boxer movement in its initiatory stages has been encouraged; one of the objects of this Great Power being to break up Sir Robert Hart's wonderful organisation, which is one of the great civilising influences in China. The object—I do not say of the Russian Government itself but of the emissaries of our great rival in China—has been to break up that organisation of 8,000 subordinates, who have been by degrees trained under that distinguished Englishman to a service which is unique in the East and which has conferred great benefits upon China. With the object of breaking up Sir Robert Hart's organisation this revolutionary agitation was for a considerable time encouraged. If any hon. Member thinks this impossible or improbable I beg him to read over again the history of the Armenian troubles in Turkey, where he will find that exactly the same influence was used that is now being used in China. The whole of the Russian press of late has been denouncing any interference with Chinese government, except only in the relief of the Legations. It has been saying that China is more important to Russia than the whole of Europe; it has been advocating a refusal to co-operate with this country in any attempt to improve the government or to alter the conditions of life in China. These are very serious facts, and they are facts which I hope the Government will bear in mind. Another point to which I wish briefly to refer is the question of missionaries. Much undeserved opprobrium has been cast upon the action of missionaries in China. I believe they have done, and are doing, a great work in China, although, no doubt, there may have been some indiscretions. If the truth were known I fancy it would be seen that Chinese jealousy is directed against our traders quite as much as, or even more than, against our missionaries. I regretted to read the sort of lecture which the Prime Minister gave to missionaries at St. James's Hall, and I am bound to say that if I had been a missionary I should have been disposed to retort that the withdrawal of our men-of-war from Port Arthur at the dictation of Russia was a far more serious blow to British influence and to civilisation in China than any action of missionaries possibly could be. I hope in the movement now being made towards Peking by our troops great care will be taken to dissociate our soldiers from any acts of violent inhumanity towards the non-combatant Chinese. I sincerely hope that the words of "no quarter," which have been attributed to the German Emperor, have been attributed to him in mistake, and that no such spirit will be allowed to animate our troops. I say this not merely on ground of philanthropy and humanity, but because the influence of similar cruelty on the part of Russian troops in China has already been most disastrous. There is evidence to show that fearful barbarities have been displayed towards Chinese non-combatants, and if we make this a war *à outrance* similar practices will be continued. I sincerely hope Her Majesty's Government has taken special care to instruct the British generals in command to see that nothing of this kind is done by their troops. I apologise for having taken up so much of the time of the House, but I trust that what the House has given me the opportunity of saying may have some good result. I hope, above all, that not only will our Legation and the Legations of Europe be relieved as soon as possible, but also with as little loss as possible, and I hope this terrible outbreak in China will prove to be a turning point in the history of that country, and in the policy of Her Majesty's Government towards China. I hope that policy will be a clear and distinct policy of reform, based upon maintaining the independence and upon checking the partition of China.

*MR. YERBURGH said he was one of those who thought that while matters were in such a critical condition the less that was said about China the better. After the very pointed attack made upon him by his hon. friend, and the extraordinary manner in which he had misrepresented his views, perhaps the House would allow him to say a few words in reply. In the first place, he wished to say that he had never heard a more mischievous speech than that which had fallen from his hon. friend. So far as he understood it, the speech of his hon. friend was a deliberate and venomous attack upon Russia. Those who had read the Blue-book on China which had just been issued were aware that Russia had behaved in a manner that must receive the approval of everybody. Russia was approached in reference to the sending of Japanese troops, and she raised no objection whatever, although it was known that there must be a certain amount of jealousy subsisting between Russia and Japan. He thought the sentiments upon this question which were contained in the speech of M. Delcassé expressed the views of the majority of the British nation. That was the spirit in which he would ask his hon. friend to approach this question. His hon. friend had misrepresented the views which he and others held by saying they advocated the partition of China. That was not the case. Their argument had been that if China was to be divided we must see that that portion of the country which contained the largest portion of our interests should not be allowed to pass under the control of any other Power, but should remain under the control of China herself. In these conditions it was quite possible that a reformed China might issue from those central provinces, and might in time be able to recover the provinces taken from her. When the Powers got to Peking they would have to decide what indemnity was to be exacted from China for the various crimes that had been committed, and for the attacks made upon property, and other matter of that kind. An indemnity could only be obtained in two ways. One was by territory and the other by money. He hoped that no Power would ask for indemnity in the shape of territory. Then came the difficulty. How were they to get money from a Power which was practically bankrupt? Her revenues were mortgaged up to the hilt, and there was no surplus, and to raise the money would be the most difficult thing in the world. The whole crux of the question was the reform of China. Under a system of reform there would be a very large margin of revenue left, which might be applied to the payment of the indemnity. He thought he was correct in saying that there was at least a leakage of £25,000,000 per annum in the taxes, which ought to go into the Imperial Treasury, but which made its way into the pockets of the Mandarins and other officials. That money could only be obtained by reform. The whole question was bound up in reform. No doubt his hon. friend would say that England would find Russia against her, and that other countries would be opposed to these reforms. He remembered M. Delcassé said that China should be left open for the free play of the capital and the intelligence of the world. We had also recently had the pronouncement of the German Emperor upon this question. He had long hoped that the time might arrive—and he believed this crisis would help it on—when we would see reforms carried on throughout China which would give a new life to the Chinese Empire and revivify the corpse whose approaching dissolution had been productive of the greatest danger to the peace of the world. He apologised for having addressed those few observations, but in conclusion there was one urgent matter with which he should like to deal. In regard to the sufferers in the Waima case, he had heard with the greatest satisfaction that his right hon. friend would be able to say that an arrangement had been arrived at for the payment of compensation. He wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman that the relatives of those sufferers, although they did not come forward as a question of charity at all, were in many cases in a position more or less of destitution and want, and this was a state of things which he was sure the House would be sorry to see. He did not think he was using too strong language in describing this position, and he would ask his right hon. friend whether he could not see his way to get an advance made to these people from the Government, in view of the somewhat lengthy time which must elapse before the compensation was paid. An immediate advance would greatly assist all these poor people. Amongst the sufferers in the Waima case were several native soldiers. They were members of this Empire, and their lives had been taken in the service of the Queen. He thought, therefore, that compensation ought to be given, and he hoped Her Majesty's Government would not lose sight of this fact.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I quite agree with my hon. friend in regard to the question of reform. I had this question on my notes to deal with more fully, and I thoroughly agree as to its vital importance. I wish to couple the reform and independence of China together.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): Sir, I rise merely to associate myself with a good deal of what has fallen from the hon. Gentleman the Member for Chester who spoke last. On the subject of Waima I share his satisfaction in the statement which has already been promised by the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He told us that he was sure his statement would be satisfactory to the whole House. If that is so, it means, of course, that it is a statement which assures the prospect of some relief to those who suffered in the Waima case; and if that is so, I associate myself with the appeal of the hon. Member for Chester to Her Majesty's Government to take into their most favourable consideration whether, if the prospect of relief, though assured, is delayed by further discussion, they cannot expedite at any rate some portion of the relief in this case. I also agree, Sir, that this is not a very good time for reviewing the field of politics with reference to China. The hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division always speaks with such boldness on foreign affairs that he covered a great deal more ground than I am disposed to follow him upon. He seemed to provide some amusement for the hon. Member below the gangway when he alluded to the integrity of China. I think I share the amusement of the hon. Member below the gangway, because I think the amusement was caused not at all by the absurdity of the phrase, but by the recollection of the past history of this question and of language which has been used in previous years from the Government Bench. We have heard in previous years a great deal said about the integrity of China, and a great deal also about Port Arthur, about the withdrawal of our own ships, and about our right to send our ships there again whenever we pleased, which has come to look very pale in the light of events. When one thinks of the past history of this question, one cannot but feel how enormously wrong has been the estimate of the state of affairs, with regard to China, which has been made, I do not say by Her Majesty's Government alone, but by all the Governments who have been mostly concerned with the question. At any rate, I do not think it can fairly be said that the previous Government was responsible for anything that has been the cause of the present rising in China. The causes of the present rising in China are undoubtedly to be found in what has occurred in recent years. I do not blame Her Majesty's Government for that, because they have not led the way in this matter. The causes are now surely obvious to everybody. One cause has been the wrong estimate that has been formed of the condition of China—the idea that China was ripe for partition, that great liberties could be taken, and that large slices of territory could be acquired. That has brought its own Nemesis. I think we ought to remember also that it is not solely the territorial changes in China which are probably responsible for the present rising. There is a great deal not only of anti-foreign but also of real anti-Christian feeling at the bottom of the present trouble. There will always be difficulties in connection with missionary enterprise in China. Directly the missionaries acquire an official status, and directly the Chinese feel that the Christian converts cease to sympathise with the needs and customs of the village communities in which they live, there will always be difficulty and friction. I do not think the blame lies with our own missionaries in this respect, but we ought to bear in mind that missionary enterprise in China must be carefully conducted without breaking up the local feeling of Chinese communities in the country. As to the punishment which should be exacted for what has occurred, we have been greatly relieved during the last few days as to the prospects at Peking when the allied forces get there. I assume, no doubt the advance towards Peking will be proceeded with as speedily as possible and without unnecessary delay. But when the advance has been successful the question of punishment will present great difficulties. Territorial indemnity, I hope, is out of the question. Pecuniary indemnity to be anything like adequate must be on an enormous scale, and I think our first object should be rather to discover who in high places have been responsible for the damage done, and make the punishment a personal punishment, in the first instance. Beyond that, surely our hope will be that the outcome of the present troubles may be a better Government for China in the future; and if there is to be a better Government there will be great difficulty in getting reform and seeing it has a fair chance. It is to our interest that the Government of China should be independent and strong, and a better Government than it has been in the past. But it is not our business, nor the business of the other Powers, to attempt to set up that Government. It must be formed by the Chinese themselves as the outcome of their agitation. If it is to be formed by any foreign Power it will be dependent on that Power, and will not be successful. The other point is that I trust the Government will be successful in keeping themselves free from any further inland territorial acquisition in China of any kind, and may be successful in co-operating with other Powers in accepting that point of view. The hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division deprecated my defending the policy of the Concert of the Powers. The hon. Member has constantly in this House advocated a good understanding with Germany. Here is the policy of the German Government as explained by Count von Bülow himself—

> "The object we have in view is the restoration of security for the person and property and the work of subjects of the German Empire in China; the rescue of the foreigners besieged in Peking; the re-establishment and the safeguarding of law and order under a proper Chinese Government; and retribution and satisfaction for the barbarities which have been perpetrated. We desire no partition of China, and we have no separate advantages for ourselves in view. The Imperial Government feels convinced that the maintenance of an understanding among the Powers is the preliminary condition of the restoration of peace and order in China, and the Imperial Government for its part will continue to attach in its policy the first importance to this standpoint."

That is the policy of maintaining the Concert, and if the friendship of Germany is to be preserved we should all proclaim that we desire to preserve the Concert; therefore the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield when he complains of the Concert is really defeating his other object, which is the maintenance of the friendship of Germany. The hon. Member goes so far as to advise that the Concert should be broken up.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Certainly not; what I object to is basing your policy on a supposed Concert which does not exist.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I always envy the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division, because he is so perfectly clear that foreign policy is a comparatively simple matter. He has a perfectly distinct policy of his own, and he is always certain that, if adopted, it would lead to successful results. I wish the matter were so clear and simple, because it seems continually that the hon. Member's real policy is not a Concert but an alliance with certain Powers to be entered into, maintained, strengthened, and enforced at the expense of some other Power. That is a policy which I think should only be adopted under extreme circumstances and never until a policy of general Concert has failed. I believe the Government desire to preserve the Concert, and I trust the other Powers are more agreed as to their aims in China now than in the past. The two hopeful things I see in the present situation are, first of all, that the result of this agitation and disturbance, after accounts have been settled with the Chinese Government, will be that something better may come to the top in China itself than has existed for some time past. If there are any signs of that—I do not think Her Majesty's Government should make themselves responsible for what any Government in China may do—I hope Her Majesty's Government will do what they can to encourage those signs and get a fair field for them. The second thing in which there is hope is that the lessons of the past two years may be taken to heart by the Powers interested, that the disintegration which people thought was proceeding apace may be arrested, and that all the Powers interested in China may be disposed to leave China to herself after adjusting accounts with her. Surely the lesson is obvious that there has been complete miscalculation with regard to the condition of China. Everyone must now be aware that, inert and helpless as China may be, she possesses a power of resistance and exasperation. If that be so, we may not be able to look for great improvement in China. If the various Powers interested are agreed, and will concentrate their minds on the agreement with each other—which means not merely that they should be agreed, but that they should trust each other—then they may concentrate their forces on the preservation of China, and developing peaceful and open trade in China. Trade is not to be promoted by territorial acquisition. The obstacle to trade has been the likin duties. If they were placed under an administration similar to that which deals with the maritime duties, the trade of China would be developed enormously. Internal reform is the direction in which the Powers should work, and I hope one result will be that peaceful and open trade may be promoted in this way, and that the idea of furthering political ambitions and exclusive possession may be laid aside entirely.

*MR. BRODRICK: A considerable number of questions have been raised in this discussion beyond those to which the hon. Baronet who has just spoken referred. With regard to the Waima incident, I quite admit there has been unfortunate delay, and I quite agree that small matters ought not to be long in settlement between Great Powers. The French themselves have a saying, "*Les bons comptes font les bons amis*," which is not inapplicable in the present instance. But I am glad to tell the hon. Gentleman and others interested in seeing that British subjects who have suffered should not go without compensation, that we have, in the last few hours, received from the French Government the acceptance of immediate arbitration in respect of compensation for the Waima incident. The French Government admit that compensation is due, and the arbitration is simply to settle the amount. On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government have admitted, with regard to the sinking of the ship "Sergent Malamine," that compensation is due from them, and arbitration will take place simultaneously as to the amount of compensation due, the minimum being £5,000, and the maximum £8,000 which the French Government were willing to accept. Compensation for relatives of the coloured troops who were killed in the Waima incident has been provided for. With regard to the temporary necessities of those who lost their relations, the Government will find means of giving some small further assistance pending the result of the arbitration. With regard to Korea, the right hon. Gentleman tried to establish some difference of opinion between the treatment of the subject in the present year and the treatment by the representatives of the Foreign Office in the past. The position is an easy one to state. I said the other day that the promise in regard to the occupation of territory in Korea by Russia was not given to Her Majesty's Government, but to a third Power—namely, China. That is so. The promise was given before the war, at a time when China was suzerain in Korea. After the war that suzerainty passed away from China; and Korea has had the power to give concessions to other Powers. She exercised that power and gave a concession to Russia, but not exclusively to Russia, because in almost identical terms a similar concession was made to Japan. Japan was the Power chiefly concerned, and I think that, so far from the right hon. Gentleman calling on me to explain why Her Majesty's Government did not intervene, the onus lies on him to prove why we should intervene.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I did not call upon the Government to intervene. I did not suggest that for a moment. I asked with the view of obtaining a reassuring statement. I did not call for any action at all, and I do not know of any circumstances where action is needed.

*MR. BRODRICK: The suggestion is that we have given up something which we ought to have retained.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The language used created the gravest suspicion.

*MR. BRODRICK: The difference between us is as to what occurred. It was a perfectly natural concession on the part of Korea, quite within her power; no international rights were affected by it, and in such a case Her Majesty's Government hold that they had no reason to intervene. Then my hon. friend the Member for the Ecclesall Division has brought up the old question of Turkey, and he made two propositions. He laid down that, both in the matter of concessions for railways and in the questions arising out of contracts with the Turkish Government, Her Majesty's Government have shown some remissness. I confess that I think, on these questions, my hon. friend is on rather dangerous ground in invoking continually the influence of Her Majesty's Ambassador. I would point out to him that the question of the contractors to whom a Government should give its contracts is really a question for that Government. Has it ever occurred to a foreign Government to ask my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Admiralty, if he gives a contract for a certain number of guns to one foreign contractor, that he should give a contract for an equal number to a contractor of theirs? I think that beyond friendly representation it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to go. In the same way with regard to railway concessions. It is quite true that a concession was given to Germany, and Turkey, by a self-denying ordinance, we are informed, though we have no official information, decided that such railways as she may not make herself in Asia Minor she will give to Russia the preference of making. I am not going to argue the point; but, at all events, to represent, as my hon. friend did represent, this as a desertion of British trade and British manufactures by Her Majesty's Government——

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: My point was that these concessions were not given as fair bargains, but were wrung from the Turkish Government by strong and unjust political pressure on the part of other Powers. And that I am prepared to prove.

*MR. BRODRICK: I have no information on that, nor have we any information as to the 100,000 men which Russia has, according to my hon. friend's statement, massed on the frontier of Turkey.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Mobilised.

*MR. BRODRICK: Nor is it our business to interfere in matters of that kind. We are not the custodians of any concession which may be given by foreign Powers all over the world, but we desire to do the best we can for our own interests.

I should like to answer at greater length the points brought forward with regard to the situation in China. I may say at once that I fully appreciate the consideration shown by right hon. Gentlemen opposite in their desire not to embarrass the Government at a very critical time. I do not think that it would be possible for any man to speak from this bench on a question such as that now proceeding in China without falling into difficulties on one side or the other. We have at this moment before us the not unprecedented, but still humiliating, fact that some 200 Englishmen, mostly at their post in the discharge of duty, have been asking for several weeks for that relief which up to now we have not been able to afford them. We have also the knowledge that, although the forces now massed at Tientsin are very large, they belong to six different Powers; they are not provided, having been hurriedly sent there, with the whole equipment of a warlike expedition; and their advance must be impeded by the difficulties of the locality and the state of the roads and the weather. But, so far as we can judge at the present moment, there has been no lack of co-operation on the part of the commanders and no avoidable delay. My hon. friend asked me several questions with regard to the intervention of the Japanese which I cannot pass over. My hon. friend said that if, early in the day, we had strongly invited the co-operation of the Japanese they would long ago have been in Peking, and that, at any rate within a month from the time when they were invited, they would have found their way to Peking. He complained that the invitation was not sent until 25th June. I will recapitulate the dates in a few words. Two or three days before 6th June we received a strong expression from Sir Claude MacDonald as to the critical nature affairs were assuming in Peking. On 6th June Her Majesty's Government gave power to the Minister and to the Admiral to take any steps at their discretion with the forces at their command in order to relieve the position. On the 8th June Sir Claude MacDonald, by the wish of Her Majesty's Government, informed our representative at Tokio by telegraph of the position in order that he might bring it under the consideration of the Japanese Government. On the 13th of June Mr. Whitehead reported that the Japanese would be ready to send troops. On the 15th they were informed of what Her Majesty's Government were doing, and Mr. Whitehead was asked to discover what steps Japan contemplated taking. Various reports came from them as to the troops they were prepared to send. On the 22nd Mr. Whitehead was instructed by telegraph to ask whether Japan did not intend to send further forces, it being then well known that Her Majesty's Government were already sending a large body of troops from India. On the 25th, after an interview with the Japanese Minister, Lord Salisbury instructed our Ambassadors in Berlin and St. Petersburg to discover whether any objection would be raised, either by Germany or by Russia, to the despatch of 20,000 or 30,000 Japanese troops. They were able to report very shortly that no objection would be raised, but on 2nd July, before Japan mobilised troops and made up its mind to despatch them, Mr. Whitehead was told to ask whether Japan would not be prepared to take additional measures. On

4th July Mr. Whitehead was told to bring the extreme gravity of the situation to the notice of the Japanese Government, and to point out to them their responsibility, as the only Power able, owing to their geographical position, to deal with the situation. On the 5th Mr. Whitehead reported that the Japanese wished for an exchange of views on the part of the Powers concerned. As it was apparent that up to that moment—although it was four weeks after the Admiral had started on the expedition which proved abortive, owing to the superior forces he encountered—no considerable body of troops had been landed, and as it was felt that even then further inducement might enable the Japanese Government to go forward and relieve the situation, on 6th July the Government proffered financial assistance, with the special object of relieving the Legations and enabling the Japanese Government to take action. On the same day, a few hours afterwards, we received a telegram from the Japanese Government that they were now prepared to send 20,000 troops. I have ventured to trouble the Committee with this detailed statement in order that it may be made perfectly clear from first to last—not merely by example and the evidence which we had ourselves given, by calling up ships from every part of the world, by making matters smooth with foreign Powers with regard to any scruples which Japan might entertain, and even by proffering financial assistance—we have, I venture to think, shown that Her Majesty's Government have left no stone unturned—either by persuasion, by the use of our own power or the power of the purse of Great Britain—to assuage any jealousies which might exist, and to clear the way for action and to take care that every Power knew that our sole object was that a large number of troops should in the very shortest period of time be sent to Tientsin to meet the common enemy and an overwhelming danger. As the turn the debate has taken has been greatly influenced by what has taken place in the past, the Committee will pardon me if I dwell for a time on the point that, while the Government have not undervalued the crisis in China, they may also claim that no action of theirs has precipitated that crisis. I think that in the adjustment of credit that is not the least important consideration. It is very easy to be wise after the event. It is to some extent easy with the power of Great Britain at your back to provide for an emergency. But with respect to the other point I think great force attaches to what fell from the hon. Baronet opposite, when he said, and said truly, that four years ago, by the sudden collapse of China before the onslaught of Japan, a very poor estimate was formed of Chinese power. I am sure he did not mean, any more than I do, to cast any reflection upon the valour shown in that war by the Japanese soldiers, or upon their military organisation or skill; but as a matter of fact, which the House may have forgotten, the actual total loss in the whole of that war on the Japanese side only amounted to 3,300; and of those less than one-quarter died of wounds received in action. It is, therefore, obvious to those who know the vast extent of China and its power, that what the Japanese had to do with in that war was an inexperienced body of Chinese soldiers, and not the resistance of the Chinese nation. There has been, undoubtedly, on the part of the Powers, on the part of certain people in this country, and I must say also, on the part of a great many of those who advised us, and who have spent long periods in China, the belief that the Chinese Colossus was prostrate and therefore fit for dismemberment. China is a Colossus without nerves; but she is not, therefore, impotent. I remember a remark once made by Sir Robert Hart that China, the aged man, was aged but not sick. I think we have learned by the events of the last few weeks how greatly the defensive power of China has been miscalculated, and that has reacted upon this country and upon this House. During the last two or three years I can truly say there never has been a Chinese debate in which most of the speeches have not contained something like an impeachment of Her Majesty's Government for want of forwardness and for want of vigour and persistent dictation to the Chinese Government. In the matter of outrages there has not been one case in which we have not secured the punishment of the offenders and compensation for those who suffered; but I can hardly recall a single case in which we have not been attacked for not either forcing China to maintain a system of police which you might expect in a Western nation, or punishing the absence of that system with Oriental severity. What has been the case with regard to outrages has also been the case as to pressure put on us to undertake administrative and executive work in China. The hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division has not only peculiar views with regard to our action in North China as against Russia, but he has also pointed out the desirability of training large bodies of Chinese troops, and subsidising them if necessary, in order to keep back Russia from Manchuria. That is not at all surprising to any one of us. During all the years the hon. Member has sat in this House I have never known him to put himself on a peace footing with regard to Russia. I do not think I ever heard him make a remark complimentary to Russia, except on one occasion. I remember a time, when the right hon. Gentleman opposite was Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, that the hon. Member said something very handsome of the impartiality of a Russian newspaper in which he found an allusion to the imbecility of Mr. Gladstone's Government; and, if I recollect aright, the right hon. Gentleman opposite, in replying, said he fully agreed as to the impartiality of the Russian newspaper, because he found upon the very next page a reference to "*les insanités de Sir Ashmead-Bartlett.*" To-night the hon. Member has stated that one of the follies we have been guilty of in the past is entertaining the belief that the Russians were strong enough in Manchuria to overrun China. That was one of the suggestions which the hon. Member himself made a few months ago.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: No, no; the right hon. Gentleman is making a very serious misstatement. In the speech to which he refers I deprecated placing too much importance on the actual strength of Russia in the north of China at present. I said the military strength of Russia there was very much exaggerated; but I said, as I repeated to-night, that if you allow Russia to get control of the northern provinces of China and to organise them, in the course of a year or two she will have by conscription a very large military force there, which she could use against the rest of China.

*Mr. BRODRICK: If my hon. friend makes it a matter of credit I am quite ready to withdraw that from amongst the numerous attacks he has made upon us, and to give him the fullest credit for his prescience. But there are other Members holding views, of which the hon. Member for Chester is an admirable exponent, almost as pressing upon the Government as those of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division. Pressure was brought to bear upon us only last year by Lord Charles Beresford to undertake the policing of the Yang-tsze valley and the garrisoning of the Yang-tsze by Chinese troops controlled by British officers, and the hon. Member for Chester urged us to undertake even the financial administration of that district.

Mr. YERBURGH: What I suggested was that officers acceptable to the Viceroys should be offered to them to assist them in carrying out those reforms.

*Mr. BRODRICK: The hon. Member's words go a great deal further than that. I find on two occasions he urged us to undertake military and financial responsibilities. This view has been held by a large number of Members of this House. It has been pressed upon her Majesty's Government by some newspapers, and it is the opinion of many of our fellow-countrymen all over the world that we have been remiss because we did not adopt that policy. Other suggestions of the same nature were pressed upon her Majesty's Government, but they all had the same drawbacks—they all assumed the consent of the Chinese Government or our power to disregard their consent. If you look at them by the light of the difficulties that have lately arisen in China they seem very little like practical or common-sense proposals. We have held from first to last that you cannot usurp the sovereign functions of the Chinese Government. For good or evil you have got to work through the Chinese Government; and often as we have been attacked for it, dilatory as their action may have been, we have limited our pressure to the point where we should have had to take the business out of the hands of the Chinese Government and undertake the administration ourselves. I am sure that hon. Members will understand that in tha long array of negotiations about concessions which we laid before the Hous in a Blue-book last March there wer ample materials for those who read between the lines to see that the Chinese Government were fully aware of the inconsistent nature of the proposals made to them. At one moment they were told that they were effete, that their Government was corrupt, that they had not got the confidence of European investors, and that they should put themselves into the hands of the Powers. But they might well retort, as indeed they have been inclined to do, that the Governments of Europe were competing against each other in their desire to make them loans on their present security, that the speculators of all the countries of Europe were tumbling over each other in the scramble for concessions, and in the desire to advance money on railways, mines, telegraphs, and every other form of investment which, if all the arguments used as to the unfitness of the country and its need of reform were true, would be advanced on security of no more value than the paper upon which it was written. I agree with the hon. Baronet in trusting that one solid result of the disturbances in China will be that other Governments, like our own Government, will refuse to be led astray by the idea that by putting on the pace we can really quicken the development of China. I think we must follow the principles of Sir Robert Hart, and by patient endeavour and quiet work, taking China more or less as she is, do the best we can towards her development, or we may find, as I think in the present crisis some of those who have urged the quickening of operations have realised, that premature births do not always give the longest lives. If I am brief in what I say in regard to policy to-night, I believe the House will pardon me. Let it not be supposed for one moment that because I have said, as a warning and as some vindication of the policy of the Government in the past, that caution and patience are wanted in the development of China, that we propose to depart from that leading position in all Chinese affairs which is due to Great Britain, both from our past traditions, from the fact that we have at this moment by far the largest trade in the country, and from the interest which we must have in the development of the Far East. But when we come to put what our policy may be into words, it must be for the moment chiefly of a negative character. Some points are absolutely clear. In the first place, we are bound to press forward, and we will press forward by every means in our power in concert with our allies, the relief of the Legations in Peking. Whatever may be the result, whatever difficulties may intervene, it is absolutely clear that the inviolability of the position of Envoys must be impressed on Oriental peoples; and in the Far East, and upon all subject races, the supremacy of the Western world in this matter must be asserted. Secondly, comes the question of the Yang-tsze valley. Not much attention has been given to that subject to-night, because the debate has been short, but there is no question whatever that in every part of China at this moment there is a spirit of unrest and disquiet. It is our object, as far as we can, throughout the whole of the Yang-tsze sphere, to use Her Majesty's ships and Her Majesty's forces in the endeavour to quiet the present feelings and to assist the Viceroys in the task of preserving order. We have given assurances to the Viceroys in that particular. We have made it perfectly clear that our ships and our troops will be used with that object; but I would not hold out any expectation to the House that we propose to diffuse our troops or our ships over the enormous area of the Yang-tsze. We must limit our undertaking, which once given we shall pursue at all hazards. We are determined, whatever occurs, to defend Shanghai, and, in view of the strong strain which may be placed on our troops in the north, we have thought it wise to order a third brigade from India in order to have more troops available. Then, the hon. Gentleman opposite gave his view on the question of the partition of China. Her Majesty's Government are entirely in accord with his views with regard to the partition of China. We set our face resolutely against any partition, which we believe would be fraught with infinite danger to trade interests throughout China, and which it has been our traditional policy to prevent, and we have no reason whatever, judging from the negotiations which have taken place between ourselves and foreign Powers, to believe that we are at variance with any of the Powers of Europe in this respect. I think the hon. Baronet very rightly said that it is not impossible that in the case of those private individuals who may have cherished an opposite view recent events will have acted as a somewhat salutary lesson. Then we also agree with the suggestion that whatever government is to be the prevailing government in China after this, whether the central seat of Government remains where it is, whether the dynasty remains what it is, whether the Government which has been in name at Peking remains so in fact, or whether it be more widely diffused amongst those Viceroys who have now in many respects so independent a position, that government must be, in the first place, by Chinese for the Chinese. We are not prepared ourselves to undertake, nor are we prepared to assist other Powers in undertaking, to Indianise China. We are not prepared ourselves to undertake the responsibility of setting up European administration in those remote parts of China, which would entail upon us responsibilities that we are determined not to be party to. So much has been said to-night about the question of the organisation of the Chinese army that I may say at once that we do not contemplate the idea of organising the Chinese army under foreign officers in order to add to the strength of China as a sovereign Power. If it becomes necessary, as in the case of that regiment which we have ourselves organised at Wei-hai-wei, and which is doing such admirable service in the advance which is taking place—if it becomes necessary for police purposes to arrange for the officering of some native troops, that, perhaps, is a different matter. But to organise a great Chinese army under foreign officers seems to us, in the common interest of all the Powers, a dangerous experiment. Beyond that there is the question of an indemnity. There must be an indemnity. I welcome the hon. Baronet's suggestion that the indemnity should be laid, if possible, on those who are chiefly responsible either for initiating or for not checking the present insurrection, but what form that indemnity should take is a question which we must relegate to future consideration. I think the Committee will pardon me if I do not go beyond what I have said. I think this is a time when the fewer words used the better. After all, if we do not fully state our views I do not think the House will believe that it is because we are blind to the broader aspects of the questions which have been opened up, because we ignore them, or because we do not know our own minds. But, although I do not agree with my hon. friend's strictures upon our attempt to work in concert with Europe, I do feel, and the Committee will feel, that there are limits, and known limits, to concerted action. It would be unwise for us, dealing with Powers that may have conflicting interests and must have varying conceptions of national duty in respect to China, to tie ourselves too closely to statements which may embarrass us hereafter at a time when, as we believe, it is better to go part of the way in concert with others than to attempt to go the whole way single-handed. But we do not shut our eyes to this fact—that great changes may result from the recent calamitous events. The Chinese government, or the want of Chinese government—the comedy, in some respects, of Chinese government—has almost created the greatest tragedy of the century, and no one can tell whether the result of what has occurred may not put back the clock of civilisation for forty or fifty years. What Her Majesty's Government feel is this—that, though we cannot see the actual steps before us, still we cannot help hoping that the Powers of Europe will discover some foundation on which a Chinese Government may be built up which will not utterly deny the benefit of civilised rule to a population amounting to one-third of the whole of the human race. If that should happen, then a great crisis would have been made into a great opportunity. Her Majesty's Government cannot look with indifference at what the result may be. For the last century we have been building up a great trade in China which has been mutually advantageous to the Chinese and to ourselves. An Englishman has undertaken the responsibility of the Customs, which is almost the sole guarantee to a Chinaman of an incorrupt administration. We have in our own settlement of Shanghai and elsewhere given the example of the best forms of municipal government, and in our dealings with the Chinese Government we have scrupulously regarded good faith and treaty engagements. To desert all that Englishmen have built up during the last 100 years would be a position which Her Majesty's Government could never take up. Rather we would endeavour within the limits which I have laid down, and which I think have been accepted by the

Committee, to continue to use our best endeavours to preserve that civilised government, with extension of Western advantages, the diffusion of which has been the stimulus of British activity and the vindication of British rule throughout the world.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on a most statesmanlike and satisfactory speech. He recognised the great importance of using every effort to maintain the Concert of the Powers in dealing with the serious situation which might have to be faced and dealt with in China to-day. This was no time to go over the history of the past few years, though the Committee must agree that many mistakes had been made. Had those mistakes been avoided the position in China at the present time would have been very different to what it was. The correspondence which was contained in the Papers which had just been laid upon the Table showed that, during the last few months at all events, the Government had pursued a wise and vigorous policy in upholding British interests. Everyone rejoiced to know, and everything seemed to point to the fact, that the policy not only of this country, but of the other nations interested in China, was to preserve China for the Chinese, and to maintain that empire open equally to the trade of all nations. That was a just and equitable policy, and had it been maintained and pursued a few years ago, since the conclusion of the Chino-Japanese war, the situation to-day would be very different. We could not, however, recall the past. The policy declared by Count von Bülow, which opposed the partition of China, which sought no advantages for any one nation over others, and which looked to set up in China a better government, was a policy to which the British Government might well give their heartiest support. A statement had also been made by M. Delcassé on somewhat similar lines, and some time ago the United States sought and obtained assurances from other nations interested in the trade of China as to the maintenance of the open door for the trade of all nations. She at the same time urged that efforts should be made to introduce administrative reform into the Chinese Empire. She, therefore, was also in accord with the German policy, and it was to be regretted that the exigencies of the Presidential campaign should have somewhat paralysed her energies at the present juncture. Undoubtedly all classes in Japan took the same view, and if the Government could proceed upon these lines with these other nations, adopting and supporting the same policy, Russia could not hold aloof, and out of the anarchy which now existed in China might come great good not only to the Chinese nation itself, but to all those nations who traded with her. Something had been said with regard to an indemnity. He sincerely hoped the spirit of revenge would be left out of the question in our advance on Peking—than which he could conceive no greater duty on the part of the civilised nations—but that the slaughter of Chinese would be as small as possible consistently with the rescue of the Legations. It should be remembered that China had been greatly provoked, and that unjust aggressions had been made upon her by nations, with the result that concessions were forced from her which enabled them to place themselves in military occupation of portions of Chinese territory. That was a question which, however, could not now be entered into. Our endeavour must be to work in concert with other Powers at present—to put an end to the present state of anarchy, and set up a better government for the Chinese. He reminded the House that among the Chinese he had met were enlightened and patriotic statesmen; and while, of course, those who were responsible for the attack of the Imperial troops on the Legations at Peking must at the conclusion of hostilities be removed from power, he believed there were many honest and patriotic Chinese statesmen, such as the Viceroys of the great Yang-tsze regions, and of Nanking and Wuchang, who, with other enlightened Chinamen, might help to form a better government for the country. The question of an indemnity was a difficult one. It would be impossible for China to pay any large indemnity at the conclusion of hostilities in money, and he hoped the Government would seek, rather than a money payment, that arrangements might be come to whereby new commercial treaties should be made with the Chinese Government under which likin would either be abolished or brought under administrative control of an honest description, and that China should receive largely increased import duties under those treaties. By these means the income of China could easily be increased without serious detriment to the trade of nations dealing with her. Moreover, it should be demanded that the inland waterways of the interior of China should be opened freely to the trade of all nations, that great arteries of the Empire like the Yang-tsze-Kiang and West River should be put under the control of international conservancy boards, and a certain sum of money, derived from the increased revenues, employed in removing the obstructions to navigation and developing the trade on those rivers. With regard to railways, he thought whenever railways were built by foreign enterprise, the Chinese Government ought to have power, under certain terms and conditions, to take over the lines when they were in a position to do so, but that until they could repay principal and interest, the railways should remain under the control of those who constructed them. If such a policy could be carried out with the free consent of the best elements of China—and the reform party in China was by no means inconsiderable—he believed it would be productive of great benefit. There was one other point he wished to refer to arising out of some remarks made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a previous occasion. The correspondence showed that Lord Salisbury very promptly and very properly, when approached by the Japanese Government, undertook the financial responsibility for Japan's sending troops to the relief of the Legations at Peking. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said a few evenings previously that no financial responsibility now attached to this country in regard to Japanese expenditure, for the reason that they did not act with sufficient promptitude. The consent of Lord Salisbury to undertake the financial responsibility was only communicated to Japan on the 6th of July, and the Japanese Government immediately prepared an army of 20,000 men to go to China. In his opinion, if the matter was not clear, it would be wise that notice should be given to the Japanese Government that the British Government was prepared to adhere to their promise to bear the financial responsibility of this expedition to relieve the Legations in Peking. It was to be hoped that the rising would not spread to the rest of that vast Empire. He recognised the efforts which were now being made by the Government to protect the lives and property of British subjects in China, but he regretted that what he had urged so long ago had not received more prompt attention. He ventured to press upon the attention of the Government the advisability, and, indeed, the necessity, of at once undertaking the construction of suitable gunboats to patrol the upper Yang-tsze, and protect our interests. He would not add more because of the serious character of the present situation. If its seriousness were fully realised by the Government he could only hope that at the end of the recess when the House met again they would be able to congratulate the Government on having in the intervening months dealt vigorously, firmly, and wisely with one of the gravest situations that the Government in the whole of its history had had to face.

*MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek) rose to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman that the temporary assistance which it was admitted might fairly be granted to the sufferers of the Waima incident might be immediate and substantial. It was perfectly true that a small grant of two hundred pounds was given last year to the three ladies whose cases were looked into, but that amount must have come to an end, and having regard to the fact that it was seven years since the deplorable occurrence took place, those ladies were now in great straits. He was glad to hear that the black soldiers were to share equally with their white comrades, and he hoped that their families would meet with some recompense. In those far-away regions, where black and white soldiers were fighting side by side, and where occurrences like the Waima incident unhappily took place, he hoped they would always be treated alike.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that he had heard with great satisfaction the policy declared by the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. His satisfaction had been the greater because this was the first declaration of a definite character which had been given to the House. Doubtful statements had been made, but he had never ceased to believe that the Government would come back to the belief which they entertained in 1898, when they accepted the motion of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division, seconded by himself, affirming the necessity in British interests for maintaining the integrity of China. He was rather struck by one phrase used by his right hon. friend, to which, perhaps, he attached too much literal importance—that one of the main objects of the Government was that the supremacy of the Western world should be established in China.

*MR. BRODRICK said he was then referring solely to the power of the Western world to relieve their Legations in China.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES was extremely glad to have elicited that explanation, for he confessed the words seemed to him to bear a signification which might be injurious. They might have been understood as implying that it was intended that the Western Powers should exert a paramount and permanent influence over the Chinese. The right hon. Gentleman had said, and said truly, that the defensive power of China had been greatly underrated—by no one, he was sorry to say, more than by one of the right hon. Gentleman's predecessors on the Government Bench, who wrote a book to prove that China was a foredoomed and decaying Power. He thought the veracity of the Chinese Ambassador was also greatly underrated, together with that of the Chinese Ministers, who had asserted day after day that the Ambassadors in Peking were alive. Those assertions had been received by the press with insulting comments, and even sensational accounts were published of a massacre which did not take place. He had looked in vain to see some sort of an apology made to the men whose veracity had been impugned. We were, no doubt, committed to common action with other Powers with regard to the relief of the Legations, but he for one would not be prepared to assume the responsibility of acting with them throughout, after the way in which some nations had announced their intentions. He would much deplore anything like a close association in permanent policy with Powers whose conduct he believed had materially led up to what had taken place, although it might be necessary to join in common action to effect the rescue of the Ministers in Peking. What he wanted to see was that we did not pledge ourselves to anything further than was required to effect that rescue. If we were once tempted to set up a permanent concert of the Powers, it might have a very prejudicial effect upon the interests of this country. He rejoiced that the Waima incident had been so happily terminated, but he regretted that no attempt had been made to settle the difference between this country and France with regard to the Newfoundland difficulty. He believed with a little pressure on the part of the Government and a little reasoning on the part of the British Ambassador in Paris an arrangement could be come to which would make it possible for the subjects of both countries to live in harmony in Newfoundland. Here again he had noticed with grief the assertions made by the English press. He had seen it asserted that France was preparing to make war upon this country, when everyone knew that no one in high position in France had any such idea; that so far from having any intention to make war upon us, they were apprehensive of our making war upon them, which was a notion which never entered our heads. It was a very dangerous frame of mind to get into. Mr. Kruger said that he only made war upon us because he was afraid that we were going to make war upon him. Such a calamity as a war between England and France owing to the apprehension of both countries was a thing which he hoped would never occur. France was our most necessary friend and our nearest neighbour, and a good understanding between France and ourselves was necessary not only in the interests of the two countries, but also for the permanent security of peace in Europe. He looked, therefore, with the greatest grief on the attempts which had been made recently in the press to suggest the idea that France had the intention to make war upon us, and he would, so far as it lay in his power, reassure the French in that respect. He believed he expressed the feeling of the country when he said that no such idea had entered our heads.

MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.) desired to associate himself with the hon.

Member for Leek in his appeal to the financial authorities to give rapid, effectual, and substantial help to those who suffered so long ago in the Waima disaster. He also desired to associate himself with the hon. Member for the Barnsley Division of Yorkshire in the congratulations which he offered to the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Everyone must sympathise with the Government in the difficulties in which they were involved, and which they had to meet and deal with under the present trying circumstances; not the least of which was the fact that there was a dual Government at present in Northern China. When one Government came to the top he hoped it would be the reformed Government. This was the first time during the last five or six years that the Under Secretary had shown any sympathy with the reform party in China, and he congratulated him upon that fact. Although the reform party were in no way altogether favourable to Europeans, and there were many who showed strong anti-foreign predilections, if that party was established in China it would greatly benefit Western Powers, with China adequately administered on modern methods. There was one point which these Papers did not throw much light on—namely, the causes of the outbreak and the crisis which had been precipitated. It seemed to him that our representatives at Peking had not had those means of information which they might have had. They did not foresee the *coup d'état* which took place, although those who followed the affairs of China in the public prints had read statements in an important weekly paper, well known to all Europeans in China, containing most striking predictions. One especially came out as far back as February and another in May, which was quoted in a letter by ex-Consul Jamieson, showing that information was available which might have gone far if acted on in checking or mitigating the outbreak which had caused so much trouble. It seemed to him that we needed an improved Intelligence Department at Peking. He had said that before, but since he last had the honour of speaking on the point no less a personage than the Prime Minister had referred to the necessity for a judicious distribution of secret service money. Lord Salisbury said—

> "Information is a mere matter of money and nothing else. If you want much information you must give much money. If you give little money you will have little information."

China was a part of the world where valuable information could be obtained at a cheaper rate than in any other part of the globe. He hoped that in another year the secret service money might be largely increased. There was only one other point to which he wished to draw attention, and that was the position of our Commercial Attaché, Mr. Consul Jamieson. He had felt that in his intercourse with the Viceroys he was considerably prejudiced and handicapped by the fact that his rank was inferior to theirs. He (the hon. Member) suggested that our Commercial Attaché should have the rank of a Secretary of Legation.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that the declaration made by the Government as to the Waima incident, though tardy, was as satisfactory as could be hoped for in the circumstances, and he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) said he wished to associate himself with the congratulations which had been expressed on the speech of his right hon. friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. It was some satisfaction that the policy the Government proposed to adopt met with universal approval. At the same time there were one or two remarks suggested by the speech which he should like to make. The right hon. Gentleman said that the two qualities required in dealing with China were caution and patience. He would venture to suggest to the Government that they ought to exhibit two other qualities which were equally needed—firmness and perseverance. They knew that the Government had from the first been in favour of maintaining the integrity of China. The means by which they hoped to maintain that integrity had so far been very effective in resisting encroachments, and in view of what had happened in the past he hoped there would be a continuance of that policy. At the same time it was impossible to disguise from ourselves the fact that efforts might be made to interfere with the integrity of China which would require the greatest finesse and skill on our part to avert. His hon. friend did not propose that the British Government should undertake the financial administration of the Yang-tsze valley. His contention was that it would be of the greatest advantage not only to the Chinese Government, but to the traders and merchants who carried on business in that region, if some skilled and trained official could be appointed to fill a position similar to that occupied by Sir Robert Hart. If we were to raise an indemnity in China it seemed to him that something of that kind would have to be done, because at present the feeling was that an indemnity could only be raised by a loan, and the interest on that loan would have to be guaranteed in some way. It would have to be taken out of the likin duties, and therefore he thought his right hon. friend would see that the suggestion of the hon. Member for Chester was not very wide of the mark. With reference to the action we were now taking in China, he thought the British Government, and perhaps Governments in general, were inclined to rely too much on Japan. Having been in that country himself, and taken some pains to investigate its powers and resources, he confessed he was not so greatly impressed by them as other people had been, and he did not think, in any case, that the European Concert should allow Japan to take the lead in this crisis. It would not be a wise or dignified course, and we might be sure that Japan wanted something to herself. Japan would not pull the chestnuts out of the fire for nothing. What he would say was—work with Japan, but do not rely too much on her. He agreed with his hon. friend that it was better to go half-way with the Concert of Europe than the whole way ourselves. He thought England should do all she could at present to work in a friendly way with the Concert of Europe, especially when the feeling of Europe was one of hostility to this country. That might help to mitigate the hostility which was felt on certain parts of the Continent. He wished to associate himself with the hon. Member for King's Lynn as to the necessity of cultivating friendship with France. Although comparisons were always odious, and he did not wish to make comparisons, at the same time he must say that, if we looked at the feeling exhibited by the journals of the country, it was impossible to maintain that France was more unfriendly than Germany. He thought that, on the whole, the indications were that France was more inclined to be friendly than Germany. It should be remembered that France had good reason to be sore with us at present. We should not try to tread upon her corns in any way. It would be extremely wise to endeavour at this moment to show a friendly feeling towards France, because it was undoubtedly the fact—he had it from an intimate friend of one of the French Ministers—that an impression was being spread abroad that it was the intention of England to declare war upon France. It would be wise statesmanship to do all we could to remove that impression from the people and the Government of France, and certainly we should avoid using any expressions which would wound the susceptibilities of France. A wise, conciliatory, and friendly policy with France and Russia would be the most advantageous for this country to pursue.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said that although he listened with satisfaction to the right hon. Gentleman's speech, he confessed that it had not removed any feeling of apprehension from his mind, for he had not entertained any apprehension whatever that the Government were likely to embark on any policy with regard to China which would not be safe, easy, and profitable. He was satisfied that, although we declined to arbitrate in the dispute with the Transvaal, if at the time the war was commenced in South Africa we had known that it would cost us £70,000,000——

*THE CHAIRMAN: That has no reference to the Vote now before the Committee.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said he was not going to discuss the war, but he was going to show that the principle of arbitration should always be adopted when it was an advantageous thing to do so. It was obvious that the moment it was discovered that war with China would not be safe and easy, and that it would be expensive, there was not the slightest chance of this country embarking upon it. He did not think any Blue-book was necessary to ascertain the causes of the war. He would ask hon. Members what their feelings would be if they were in the position the Chinese had been in. Supposing England had been described as effete and played out and to be safely attacked, supposing we had a weak Government, giving way to unreasonable demands, supposing there were hundreds and thousands of adventurers in the country from the Continent demanding with threats of war concessions, if the Government was unable or made no attempt to restrain them, he ventured to say that there would be a "Boxer" movement in England to clear away the interlopers who were endeavouring to seize the country. The disastrous state of affairs in China at present was owing to the Imperialistic jingo policy which was formerly countenanced and now abandoned by the Government. It was often said that it would never do to introduce into politics the principles of morality which governed private individuals. That doctrine had always been denied by the Manchester school to which he belonged. A close examination of the history of this country showed that whenever we had departed in our international relations from the principles of morality and honesty which ought to regulate the dealings between man and man, it had always brought disaster upon us. If we had acted on those principles we would have been able to dictate in the form of advice any decision China ought to take, and we might have relied upon China following our advice, but we had discredited ourselves by associating ourselves with a gang of robbers who believed that China would be too weak to resist.

MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give the House any information as to the negotiations with foreign countries with reference to the abolition of sugar bounties. This was a most important question to those who used to live by the refining of sugar and the various industries connected with it. The question was in very much the same position now as twenty-six years ago, when he first had the honour to be elected a Member of that House. The first person who gave him any information on the subject was his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, at a time when he occupied a position of greater freedom and less responsibility.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to go into the whole question of sugar bounties. He must apply his remarks in such a way as to show that the Foreign Office has done something it ought not to have done, or that it has left undone something it ought to have done.

MR. DAVID MACIVER said he wished to show that the Foreign Office had omitted to do that which it ought to have done, and he wanted to know if it intended to do that which ought to have been done. He thought it would be seen that his remarks were germane to his argument. The sugar refineries had decreased from ——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must proceed to show malfeasance on the part of the Government in order to bring his remarks into order.

MR. DAVID MACIVER expressed the hope that his right hon. friend would be able to show that the Foreign Office was doing its very best to prevent these bounties, which were ruining, and had ruined, sugar refineries in England. This was a serious matter to his constituency. He wished the Under Secretary to show that he was doing what he could to remedy this state of things in future, so that the sugar industries might be brought back to something like their former prosperity. He did not think he was unreasonable in protesting against the bounty system, and in asking the Under Secretary to tell the Committee what the real intention of the Government was with the view of remedying a state of things so that a valuable trade would be enabled to lift its head and prosper as in the days of old.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Committee is probably aware that we are carrying on negotiations through diplomatic channels. If there is no definite progress which can be at present noted on the subject of sugar bounties, I know, indirectly, that negotiation and discussion are going on between the Governments of Germany, France, Austria, and, I think, Russia, on the subject. My hon. friend will appreciate that all changes of fiscal policy on the part of any Government are to some extent of slow growth, but I can assure my hon. friend that the matter has not been lost sight of. So far as the Government are concerned, we will continue to press through diplomatic channels in the direction desired.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I might perhaps take a little exception to the great ingratitude displayed towards myself personally by the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the course of his speech, seeing that I have provided Her Majesty's Government with a policy towards China. However, I am satisfied with the fact that the right hon. Gentleman has accepted that policy to the full now. His declaration with regard to the maintenance of the independence and the integrity of China was as satisfactory as any of us could hope for, and was in thorough accordance with the resolution the House passed in March, 1898, which I had the honour of proposing. What I want to ask my right hon. friend now is regarding his declaration as to reform in China. I very much regret that in the course of the remarks I made I did not dwell sufficiently on the question of reform. That really, as the hon. Member for Chester says, is the basis of the future of China, and it ought to be one of the main objects of our policy to improve and reform China. The hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick, the late Under Secretary of State, made a statement which I thought was very unfortunate, He tried to bind the Government and the House to a formal declaration against using influence in support of any particular government in China. It is perfectly clear that if China is to be reformed—and China must be reformed—the civilised Governments of the world must exert their influence in support of a party or of ministers who are in favour of reform. I would not bind the Government to any particular form of support, but I do hope the statement of the hon. Baronet is not going to be the policy of Her Majesty's Government. I hope a part of that policy—which we now clearly know to be that of the independence and integrity of China—will be reform; and the only way in which reform can be carried out is by Her Majesty's Government in some form or other lending their strong moral support to that party in China which wishes to see reform and good government there established. I think the House has good reason to congratulate itself upon the result of to-night's debate. Very little exception, if any, can be taken to the statement of the Government, and I rejoice that two very serious difficulties in the way of a satisfactory settlement in China have been removed by the statements which have come from both Front Benches. It is perfectly clear that the hon. Baronet at last sees that the British policy cannot be based upon the imaginary Concert of Europe. It is also perfectly clear from the statement of my right hon. friend that the Government intend to have a policy and to carry out that policy whether or not they get the formal support of the Powers. So long as that policy is clearly defined and courageously upheld, they can afford to disregard any opposition they may encounter in Europe or elsewhere, because they will have the support of the strongest Powers with them.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I wish to associate myself with the hope that has been expressed that the Government will do something definite to bring the negotiations arising out of the Brussels Conference to a successful issue. One reason why those negotiations were not successful at the time was that the British Government sent a representative to the Conference without any definite instructions. There is no use bringing forward a grievance unless you are prepared to suggest a remedy, and the British representative was sent without any definite instructions to propose a remedy for the great evil which is being done to the sugar industry. We are glad to hear that negotiations are still proceeding, but that is not altogether satisfactory. We have heard that for a long time, but nothing has been done, and meanwhile the industry is being brought to the verge of extinction. Distinguished members of Her Majesty's Government have from time to time stated their belief that the bounty system is altogether indefensible, and that something should be done to put a stop to it. What we ask is that they should have the courage of their convictions, and allow this question to remain in the air no longer, but really do something to put an end to the iniquitous system which is destroying the trade against which it is directed.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I simply wish to enter my protest against language such as that of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield. At this moment, when the lives of not only men but also women and children are hanging in the balance, and when the rescue of those lives is absolutely dependent on perfect accord between the different Powers of Europe who have troops out there, I think the hon. Gentleman was adopting a not very discreet course in discussing the future relations between the different Powers engaged in this work. I will say nothing further on the question of China except to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs upon the admirable and eloquent speech he has delivered to-night, a speech which I am sure met with the approval of every Member of the House. I have risen mainly for the purpose of saying a word on the question alluded to by the hon. Member for King's Lynn—namely, the relations between this country and France. Everybody must be delighted with the announcement that the outstanding difficulty with regard to the Waima incident has been at last settled, and that one source of friction has been removed. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had the courage to protest against the language of certain journals, and, may I add, certain statesmen, with regard to the relations between this country and France. I spent three weeks in France recently, and I made it my business to speak to some prominent French politicians and to study very seriously, so far as I could in that short period, the tone and opinion in that country with regard to this. I can say with perfect sincerity and accuracy that all the stories you find in some of the journals in this country with regard to the warlike feeling in France towards us are absolute inventions. As a matter of fact the feeling is all the other way. So far as I could see, they have got it into their heads that this country is burning with a desire to pick a quarrel with their nation in order to destroy their fleet and cripple their resources. I believe that is an entire delusion on the part of the people of France, but I am bound to say there has been language used with regard to that nation which it was very difficult for a chivalrous and proud people to hear without some feeling of dissatisfaction and alarm. I am quite convinced that responsible men and women who control their voice and temper in both countries are determined, so far as they possibly can, to prevent any such terrible and horrible event taking place as a misunderstanding between two great nations who have many interests in common, and who have no differences which wise and judicious administration on both sides cannot satisfactorily arrange.

*MR. KESWICK (Surrey, Epsom) said that recent events in China must inevitably have a very great effect on the history of that country. They opened a new book, which should have written upon its pages a different record from the horrors and disappointments of the past. But the nature of the record would depend almost entirely upon the Western Powers, with whom rested the character future intercourse would assume. Reform was essential, indeed was the only means by which a recurrence of the troubles we deplore could be prevented. Whoever was sent out to represent this country in Peking should be strong and vigorous, determined not to partition the country or to interfere with the rights of China, but to make known, and to insist upon China knowing, what were the proper principles upon which the future prosperity, peace, and good government of that Empire should be based. No one desired to see China weakened or her integrity in any way broken, but all desired to see peace and reform. Unless there was reform, however, disintegration was inevitable. Nothing but reform and a new policy, and the sweeping away of past misgovernment could bring the country into a state which would enable it to maintain its independence and to save itself from the grasping ambitions of certain Powers.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said he only rose to make a casual observation upon a matter which very properly arose upon the Vote for the salary of the Foreign Secretary. What he wished to criticise was the unconstitutional practice of uniting the two offices of Prime

Minister and Foreign Secretary. When one and the same individual held both these offices it was a distinct weakness. The Foreign Minister was necessarily more detached from his colleagues than any other Minister, and he had more separate and individual responsibility. The prerogatives of the Crown had become by constitutional practice vested in the Ministers, and the power of declaring peace and war was vested in the Foreign Minister. Constitutionally this House never needed to be consulted at all, although eventually the Government must come to the House of Commons for supplies. Therefore, the Foreign Minister had a position of less responsibility to the House of Commons than other Ministers in the Cabinet, and in accordance with the constitutional practice he did not need to consult his colleagues as other Ministers did. The Prime Minister had to act with the Foreign Minister, and he exercised a certain control over the Foreign Minister, but of course that control ceased when the two offices were combined. Until Lord Salisbury came into power in 1886 there never had been a union of the two offices, and on no fewer than three occasions had the Foreign Minister on becoming Prime Minister left the Foreign Office. Lord Palmerston, Earl Russell, and later still Lord Rosebery, all vacated the office of Foreign Secretary upon taking that of Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary had not the support of the Prime Minister when the two offices were combined, and he had to act largely upon his own responsibility. The Foreign Office had so many details, was so complicated, and required so much energy, that it would pass the wit of man for the same individual to occupy himself as he ought to do in his own Department and at the same time to exercise over the other Departments the controlling influence of the Prime Minister. Mr. Gladstone no fewer than three times protested against this arrangement, which was unknown until Lord Salisbury's time, and which was an anomaly absolutely associated with him alone. When the two offices were combined, other members of the Cabinet could take liberties with the Foreign Office, and no later than December last the Colonial Secretary absolutely interfered with Lord Salisbury as Foreign Minister. Of course, it was too late in the day to quarrel with Lord Salisbury's retention of those offices, but it was a practice instituted by him and unknown before his time. He could easily prove that this combination of the two offices had led to the South African War, and he thought this was a precedent which should be guarded against in the future. The relations between this country and the Orange Free State and the Transvaal were formerly directly under the control of the Foreign Office, and he believed they would have remained under that control if Lord Salisbury had not been overweighted with the cares of the Foreign Office. If those relations had remained with the Foreign Secretary he believed there never would have been a Transvaal War. If Lord Salisbury had been Prime Minister alone he would have exercised more control than he had been able to do while holding at the same time the office of Foreign Secretary. On these grounds he protested against the union of the two offices as highly unconstitutional. It had been publicly stated by Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords that the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was not permitted to answer supplementary questions. He thought it was wrong that the right hon. Gentleman should not be permitted. Much of the benefit every afternoon arose from the supplementary questions. There was no doubt whatever of the ability of the right hon. Gentleman to answer them. He thought Lord Salisbury had not dealt with perfect fairness with the House of Commons in asking the Under Secretary to forfeit his Ministerial position. He hoped that in future the offices of Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary would be held separately.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £124,483, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

*MR. TALBOT (Oxford University) said he wished to take that opportunity of calling attention to a matter connected with the administration of the Local Government Board. He had no complaint to make against the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local

Government Board for the way he received former representations from him on the same subject, but he could not conceal from himself that the law relating to the provision of religious services in workhouses had not been carried out. The law required that in every union there should be a chaplain, and that Church of England services should be provided for the inmates in some building under the control of the guardians. The erection of a separate chapel was not necessarily required. The inmates of workhouses were in some measure in a state of confinement. They were in many cases persons who were aged, infirm, or bedridden, and it was impossible for them to go anywhere outside the walls of these houses. What he complained of was that the ministrations of religion in workhouses depended not upon the provision which the law made, but upon the provision which a temporary majority of the several boards of guardians might make. Where the provisions of the law were not carried out boards of guardians, instead of making provision for the ordinary services of the Church of England being regularly conducted according to the law, made some provision by which ministers of religion of various denominations took turns of providing religious instruction. That appeared to him to be very unsatisfactory. What must be the hopeless state of confusion into which persons might get if they found themselves on one occasion instructed according to the formularies of the Church of England, and next week according to the formularies, or perhaps he should say according to the tenets, of one body or another of Nonconformists. He was not now speaking in the interest of the Church of England, to which he belonged, but in the interest of religion and the equitable administration of the law. He did not ask for any special favour. He did not ask anything for those of his own conviction and belief which he should not be ready to give others. What he did ask was that the provisions of the law should be carried out. He had a right to ask why this particular branch of the law was infringed with the connivance and assistance of the Local Government Board itself. He thought a still stronger case was made out when they came to the question of workhouse schools where religious instruction was given to the children by the representative of one denomination one day and by the representative of another another day. If this system was unsatisfactory in the case of adults it was still more unsatisfactory in the case of children. What could be more fatal to the enforcement of any religious instruction? He would infinitely prefer children to be taught the tenets of a religion which he did not approve than that they should be taught in this happy-go-lucky way. When these children went out into the world, it was highly important that they should have some form of religious conviction and worship to which they were attached; but if during their most impressionable years they were allowed to form the opinion that one set of tenets was as good as another, there was no chance, when they left the schools in which they were brought up, of their receiving that definite conviction which was the best protection against the temptations to which in after life they were exposed.

Mr. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he hoped that when the right hon. Gentleman was replying he would also reply on a particular point which he desired to raise, and in which he believed the right hon. Gentleman and the Local Government Board had a certain amount of sympathy. He did not desire anything like a general discussion, and did not intend to make anything like an exhaustive speech. The subject to which he wished to allude was the education of our pauper children. He had brought the subject before the House on many occasions. On one occasion he found that the Education Board was entirely with him, and that the Local Government Board was entirely against him; in the present Parliament he found that the Local Government Board was entirely of his view, that the education of pauper children ought to be placed under the Education Department; but when he turned to the Education Department he found that the opinion of that body had changed, and that it was no longer in favour of the reform. He said, perhaps rather too hastily, that the opinion of the Department had changed, but as far as he understood there was one man and one man only who stood between them and a much needed reform, and that was the Vice-President of the Council, who was unwilling to carry it out. It was said that they could not transfer the education of pauper children from the Local Government Board to the Education Department without for some reason or other transferring also the supervision of the life and position of these children. He believed he could claim the sympathy of the right hon. Gentleman, and he wished to know what he intended to do in the matter. He believed also that the Local Government Board were sympathetic and that they shared the view that the transfer could be accomplished without any serious departmental difficulty. He saw on the Treasury Bench the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, to whose administrative ability he desired to pay a tribute of admiration. He believed that the hon. Gentleman, with the aid of the officials of the Local Government Board, could carry out the change. But it was not carried out because they were told that the whole supervision of the pauper children of the country ought to be taken out of the hands of the guardians and put into the hands of some new central body. But even if that were possible and desirable, why should they wait for the accomplishment of a reform which was certainly distant, when they were all agreed it was a real and valuable reform —all except the Vice-President of the Council. The President of the Local Government Board knew that his views were entertained not only on that side of the House, but on the other. He appealed to the right hon. Member for the University of Oxford to signify that he agreed with them.

*MR. TALBOT: Hear, hear!

MR. STUART said he felt sure that if the President of the Local Government Board expressed his view to the Board he so ably represented a reasonable solution of the difficulty would be found. The pauper children of the country were educated under an ineffective system. That was not the fault of the Local Government Board, because they were not the proper body to educate these children, and he was sure that a very real and important reform might be carried a step forward that evening if the right hon. Gentleman would express his views on it.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said he thoroughly agreed with the views that had been expressed by the hon. Member for Hoxton with regard to the education of pauper children. As a London Member he had seen something of the surroundings of these pauper schools, and he was perfectly certain that the hon. Member had expressed a view which was in unison with the view entertained by many hon. Members. What he wished particularly to bring home to the President of the Local Government Board was the grievance which hon. Members felt against him for not enforcing the law in different parts of the country with regard to the appointment of chaplains. He had steadily perused the accounts of the workhouses in which chaplains were not appointed, and where the religious wants of the inmates were attended to by voluntary chaplains, and a more unsatisfactory condition of affairs could hardly be imagined. Something had been said about the attitude of the Irish Members, but everyone knew that if such attempts were made on their Catholic fellow-citizens as were made on the members of the Church of England they should have the adjournment moved and the matter called attention to by the Irish Catholic Members of the House. One of the hon. Members for Belfast expressed his surprise when he learned the state of affairs in England, and said that if such a thing happened in Ireland, and if the guardians refused to elect a Protestant chaplain or a Roman Catholic priest to attend to the spiritual wants of the majority or the minority in a workhouse, a sealed order would be sent down from Dublin compelling them to do it. They who complained of the grievance would like to see the same measure of justice dealt out to their unhappy island as was given to Ireland, which they were told was a downtrodden country. They had complained year after year of infractions of the law. Last year and the year before his noble friend spoke of the deliberate way in which the law was broken in the Field Lane Industrial Schools. He wished to know what happened to the unfortunate bedridden people in the infirmaries who are practically left without any spiritual ministrations. They were left to the gentlemen who came once a week or once a month to see their own people and then asked, to use a vulgar expression, if there was anyone else worth picking up. The Church of England might or might not be a majority of the population—he was not going to argue that—but even if it were a minority it was at all events a minority which deserved consideration, and he ventured to say that the people who deserved most consideration were those poor people in the infirmaries who were unable to attend church on Sundays or days of obligation. The President of the Local Government Board really owed his position to members of the Church of England, and it was certainly a poor return for that Church to know that its poorer members were left to such a haphazard arrangement. With regard to chapels he knew how difficult it was to provide, especially in large workhouses, accommodation for the due solemnities of religion. He knew one London workhouse where some friends of his were giving an entertainment, and they were shown into the chancel to be used as a dressing-room. He would not mention the name, because the paupers might be deprived of their entertainment next winter, but it showed the spirit of economy on the one hand and sectarianism on the other which prevailed.

*Mr. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said that he desired to ask the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board whether he had not received a communication from the Yeovil Rural District Council, on behalf of 120 other rural district councils, in the preceding November urging him to take action in regard to further regulations in respect of light locomotives on highways. There had been considerable discussion upon this subject of late, and suggestions had been made to further regulate the speed of motors by reducing it in difficult parts of the roads and at difficult turnings. All motors went at a high rate of speed, and the question was whether they should not have a distinguishing number put upon them so that they could be identified. They went through country districts at a high rate of speed, and when they did damage they might not be identified afterwards. He was informed that though the right hon. Gentleman had had the matter brought under his notice some nine months previously, no reply had been received from him to the representations of these 120 rural district councils.

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) supported the right hon. Member for Oxford University in his protest against the want of action on the part of the Local Government Board with regard to the appointment of chaplains to workhouses. This matter was becoming a great scandal. The law upon the subject was not denied, and it was not fitting that the scandal should go on year after year and no proper effort be made to effect a remedy. If the objection to enforcing the law was due to the fear of wounding the susceptibilities of the Nonconformists, and the Nonconformists had the slightest apprehension that there would be any proselytism, means should be taken to safeguard them. What he contended was that when a law was made provisional for those who were of the Church of England the authorities should not shrink from giving the people an opportunity of worshipping according to their religious convictions. There could be no defence of the present system. The truth of the matter was that where religion was concerned public departments cared very little about it. If people accepted religion with the same conviction that they accepted the principle of sanitation, for instance, the best provision would long since have been made for religious ministration to the poor in workhouses, and this scandal would not have arisen. There was a no more ominous thing in the mental attitude of the people of this country than the decay of religious belief, which was at the bottom of the whole difficulty. If it were thought to be an important matter there would be no difficulty in providing for it. As it was it was put aside. But he was not prepared to acquiesce in the indifference which affected the Local Government Board. He should continue to urge the necessity for maintaining that proper provision should be made, and he should continue to do his best to force his views upon the attention of the Government. The interests of the Nonconformist bodies were no less acutely at stake than the interests of the Church of England. They were threatened by the same movement, which was an irreligious movement; indeed, they would be the first to fall under a decay of religious belief, and he therefore appealed to them to co-operate with the members of the Church of England in defence of the common principles of religion against a common enemy.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) desired to put a few points before the right hon. Gentleman with regard to a subject in which his constituency was largely interested, the right hon. Gentleman's vaccination policy. He submitted that in the Order made in October two years ago there was a revolution in the policy of the Local Government Board which was quite contrary to the understanding arrived at in Parliament. At the time the Vaccination Act was passed in 1898 a great deal of discussion took place as to prosecutions, and a great many arguments were advanced on both sides. The Order which came out in October, 1898, gave the Local Government Board absolute discretion to decide for themselves what cases should be prosecuted and what cases should not. The right hon. Gentleman was not justified in the action he took. Under the old Order and practice of thirty years there was a right in the board of guardians to control their own officer, but the Order of 1898 had revolutionised that, and given the control to the Local Government Board. He thought he had some reason to complain that the Return he asked for regarding the expenditure caused by the new law with regard to vaccination had been denied.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said in the short time left at his disposal he would endeavour, as far as possible, to deal with the questions which had been raised by the hon. Gentlemen who had preceded him. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University and the noble Lord had complained that the law with regard to the appointment of chaplains to the workhouses of the country was not carried out, and that it mainly failed because of the inactivity of the Local Government Board. The statement of the right hon. Gentleman was not strictly accurate, because the appointment of chaplains for workhouses was required not by law, but by regulation made by the Local Government Board. As the regulation was made by the Department, it could be changed or revoked by the Department. In like manner the performance of services on certain specified days in workhouses was required by regulation to be observed. No one could sympathise more than he did with the desire that people of all classes and persuasions should have the advantage of religious worship, but what was the proposal of his hon. friends? In the vast majority of unions in the country chaplains were appointed. There were some in which chaplains were not appointed; and he was now pressed to insist upon the appointment of chaplains for every union. There were many unions in which the inmates were almost entirely of the Nonconformist persuasion. In such cases was he to compel the guardians to appoint a Church of England chaplain? It would be lamentable if the dying were not able to receive the consolation of religious ministration, but at the present time every inmate of a workhouse had a right to the religious ministration he required and, so far as he knew, no workhouse authorities had ever refused to provide it. He was in entire sympathy with the hon. Member for Hoxton that the inspection of poor-law children should be undertaken by the Education Department——

It being ten of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 15th of February last, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in the Committee of Supply.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 262.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)

Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goschen, Rt Hn G J (St George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy, Laurence

Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. William L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbt. Merton
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverp'l)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swan.)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander

Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. Richard G.
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry

Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Colville, John
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur

Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-

Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr M A (Queen'sC.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Richards, Henry Charles
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Rt Hn J G (Oxford Univ.
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersfld)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Channing and Mr. Steadman.

CLASS I.

3, Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £22,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 263.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duckworth, James
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manch.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence
Harwood, George
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton

Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence,SirEDurning- (Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea,Sir Thomas(Londonderry)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn,Sir Dillwyn-(Swnsea
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, James
Maddison, Fred.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm.J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring,HonW.F
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)

More,Robt.Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexand'r
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer,SirCharlesM.(Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel,Hn. WmRobertWellesley
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington,R.(Lancs,Newton)
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T.(Hartlepool)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Rt.Hn.SirMatthewW.
Ritchie,Rt.HonChas Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Sidebottom, Wm.(Derbyshire)

Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Souttar, Robinson
Spencer, Ernest
Spicer, Albert
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Verney, Hn. Richard Greville
Wallace, Robert
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,Henry J. (York,W.R.)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wortley,Rt.Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Griffith, Ellis J.

Hogan, James Francis
Joicey, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
MacDonnell,Dr.M.A(Qn.'sCo.
M'Leod, John
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Montagu, Sir S.(Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
MorganW.Pritchard(Merthyr
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas,DavidAlfd.(Merthyr)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, J. H.(Middlesbrough)
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. MacNeill and Dr. Tanner.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have to acquaint the Committee that during the course of the division that has just been taken the hon. Member for Mid Cork, having been named as a teller, came up to me, and after using some insulting expressions, said he considered it was a great impertinence on my part to have named him as a teller. In these circumstances I consider his conduct was grossly disorderly within the meaning of Standing Order XXVII. I have to request the hon. Member to immediately withdraw from the House for the remainder of this sitting.

DR. TANNER: Of course I go, Mr. Lowther, but I simply say that you told me first upon my merely asking you a question that it was an impertinence on my part to ask it. I ask only for justice in this place. Prime Minister's minion that you are. I defy you all. As an Irishman I leave the House with a great deal more pleasure than I came into it. I tell it to your teeth. You are always the same.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The Serjeant-at-Arms will remove the hon. Member.

DR. TANNER then withdrew.

4. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 251, Noes, 46. (Division List No. 264.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W B (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duckworth, James
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, Wm. Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville. Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy, Laurence
Harwood, George
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'ns'a
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn, Sir D.- (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, George Herbert

Morrison, James A. (Wilts. S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Philpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs., Newton
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn E. R. (Bath)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickard, Benjamin
Price, Robert John
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Jonathan Samuel and
Mr. Havelock Wilson.

5. £16,000, to complete the sum for Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain.

6. £18,000, to complete the sum for Peterhead Harbour.

7. £226,403, to complete the sum for Rates on Government Property.

8. £132,685, to complete the sum for Public Works and Buildings, Ireland.

9. £35,487, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland.

CLASS II.

10. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 218; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 265.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James

Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.HonJ.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke,C.W.Radcliffe(Heref'd)
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis,FiennesStanleyW.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col.Edw.T.D.
Cox,Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb.Shepherd(Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Dyke,RtHon.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,RtHnSirJ.(Manc'r)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen,RtHnJG(St.George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson,Capt. G.W.Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson,Rt.Hon. Wm.Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence,SirE.Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners,Lord Edward Wm.J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore,JohnThrogmort'n
Milbank,SirPowlettCharlesJ.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Rt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G.(Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robt. Torrens
Peel,Hon.Wm.RobtWellesley
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington,R.(Lancs,Newton)
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson,SirThos.(Hartlep'l
Ridley,Rt.Hon.SirMatthewW
Ritchie,Rt.HonChasThomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys,Lieut-Col.Thos.Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Sidebottom,Wm.(Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHon.JG(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunton
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Jos. Powell-(Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,J.W. (Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R(Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commandr (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersfld
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Maddison and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

11. £14,896, to complete the sum for House of Commons Offices.

12. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £96,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 221; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 266.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edward T.
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-

Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shopshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Charles M (Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. William Robert W.
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Rich (Lancs Newt'n
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hn. Richard Greville
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander, (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn'sC.)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickard Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Maddison and Mr. Woods.

13. £133,561, to complete the sum for Board of Trade.

14. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £64,018, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of certain services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 230; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 267.)

AYES

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Hor. D. (Chatham)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain H. M.
Joicey, Sir James
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic C.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard

Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Sidebottom, Wm.(Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G(Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
Wallace, Robert
Welby, Lt.-Col. A.C.E(Taunt'n
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell - (Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R(Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Labouchere, Henry
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn.'s C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Henry J. (Yorks, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Havelock Wilson and Mr. Steadman.

15. £5, to complete the sum for the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade.

16. £13,439, to complete the sum for the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, etc., Office.

17. £33,040, to complete the sum for the Works and Public Buildings Office.

18. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 233; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 268.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies. Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn A G H (City of London
Giles, Charles Tyrell
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Hy. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning-(Corn.
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hn. Richard Greville
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L)
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)

Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Labouchere, Henry
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A (Qn.'s Co.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersfld.
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. MacNeill and Mr. Havelock Wilson.

19. £8,508, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board for Scotland.

20. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,811, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 213; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 269.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J (St. Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John

Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. William Robert W.
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Rich (Lancs Newt'n
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibad
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn.'s Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, Jos. H (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Hudd'rsf'd)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

21. £63,245, to complete the sum for the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland.

22. £1,000, to complete the sum for Charitable Donations and Bequests Office, Ireland.

23. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £3,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the Keeper of State Papers in Dublin."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 231; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 270.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe(Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Cornwallis, FiennesStanleyW.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Dyke, Rt. HonSirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. AilwynEdward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. SirJ(Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, SirRobertPenrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H(CityofLond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. HnGJ(StGeorge's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, SirEdwardTemperley
Green, WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene, HenryD. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. HonLordGeorge
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. RobertWm.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, EdwBrodie(Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. William L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, SirE. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swan.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesh'm)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russsell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William(Derbys.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, EdwardJas(Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. HumphreyNapier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G(Oxf'dUniv.

Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. Richard Greville
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E R (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Daziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hogan, James Francis
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn.'s Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersfld
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

24. £20,682, to complete the sum for the Public Works Office, Ireland.

25. £8,814, to complete the sum for the Registrar General's Office, Ireland.

26. £10,589, to complete the sum for the Valuation and Boundary Survey, Ireland.

CLASS III.

27. £56,652, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Courts of Law, Scotland.

28. £29,237, to complete the sum for the Register House, Edinburgh.

29. £3,000, to complete the sum for the Crofters' Commission.

30. £50,684, to complete the sum for Prisons, Scotland.

31. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 271.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert B.
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen,Rt.Hn.G.J.(St.Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edward B. (Hampst'd)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt.G.W.Grice-
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt Hon. William L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capn. Herbert Merton
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Cornw'l)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank,SirPowlettChasJohn
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A.(Wilts.,S.)
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Murray,Rt.HnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J.(Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer,SirCharlesM(Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel,Hn.WmRobertWellesley
Penn, John
Philpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R.(Lancs,Newton)
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson,SirThos.(Hartlep'l
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Rt.Hon.SirMatthewW
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.ThosMyles
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Sidebottom, Wm.(Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Verney, Hon. RichardGreville
Wallace, Robert
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunt'n
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hon.E.R(Bath
Wortley,Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley,SirEdwardTemperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell,DrMA(Queen's C
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S.(Whitechapel)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. Pritchard(Merth'r

Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, Jos. H (Middlesbrough
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudderfld
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

32. £62,262, to complete the sum for the Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland.

33. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £64,710, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries, allowances, and expenses of various county court officers, of commissioners, and of magistrates in Ireland, and the expenses of revision."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 220; Noes, 63. (Division List No. 272.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. A.
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt Hn G J (St. George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)

Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington,Rich.(LancsNewtn
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Charles P. (Leigh)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Sidebottom,William(Derbysh.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Spicer, Albert
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley,EdwardJas(Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tabot,RtHon.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby,Lt.-Cl.A.C.E.(Taunton
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H.(Ashton-under-L
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams,JosephPowell-(Birm
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hon.ER(Bath)
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edward T.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Q.C.)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu,Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan,W.Pritchard(Merthyr
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Hudd'rsf'd.
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

34. £56,150, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

35. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 199; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 273.)

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beach,Rt. Hn.W.W.B.(Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole

Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke,C.W.Radcliffe(Heref'd)
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cotton-Jodrell,Col.Edw.T.D.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Curzon, Viscount
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Dyke,Rt.HonSirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt.Hon.Sir John Eldon
Goschen,RtHnGJ(St.George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert M.
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence,SirEDurning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, SirThomas(Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord EdwardWm.J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Monckton, Edward Philip
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A.(Wilts.,S.)
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington,Rich.(LancsNewtn
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson,SirThos(Hartlep'l
Ridley,RtHonSirMatthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart.M.H.(Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William (Derbys.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, James Parker (Lanark)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Taunt'n
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B.(Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Emmott, Alfred
Gourley,SirEdwardTemperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones,William (Carnarvonsh.)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell,Dr.M.A.(Qn.'sCo
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechap'l)
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morgan,WPritchard (Merthyr
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'dd'rsf'd
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

36. £74,443, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland.

37. £2,906, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland.

CLASS IV.

38. £690,318, to complete the sum for Public Education, Scotland.

39. £2,000, to complete the sum for the National Gallery, etc., Scotland.

40. £515, to complete the sum for the Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

41. £1,079, to complete the sum for the National Gallery of Ireland.

42. £2,300, to complete the sum for the Queen's Colleges, Ireland.

CLASS V.

43. £200,000, Supplementary sum for Colonial Services.

CLASS VI.

44. £468, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland.

CLASS VII.

45. £4,191, for Repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

46. £37,030, for a contribution to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

47. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £275,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 198; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 274.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M H (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W.W.B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A.G.H. (City of Lond
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. J.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt Hn. G.J. (St. Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy, Laurence
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Monckton, Edward Philip
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A (Deptford)
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandon, Viscount
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, A. H. (Christchurch)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spencer, Ernest
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
MacDonnell, Dr M A (Queen'sC
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Price and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

48. £204,000, Ordnance Factories.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, the sum of £95,234,796 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

SUPPLEMENTARY WAR LOAN BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that he did not think the Government ought to ask them to discuss the

Bill in detail at that hour, and he would move to report progress.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I hope the hon. Member will not press his objection. It was understood that I should before the Third Reading of the Bill lay a full statement on the Table of the House. I will undertake to do so. It is very important that I should get the Bill through Committee to-night, for I have to make arrangements for the issue of part of the loan as soon as possible.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1898-9.

Resolutions reported:—

That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Naval Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £637,516 8s. 3d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £825,980 6s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £188,463 18s. 3d.

(*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £6,853 13s. 5d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £65,914 3s. 3d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £59,060 9s. 10d.

(*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses ...	825,325	12	7
Total Deficits ...	577,801	4	6
Net Surplus...	£247,524	8	1

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ...	Wages, etc., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	52,038 12 0	2,039 1 1	
2 ...	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	95,269 14 4	...	...	3,698 12 11

SCHEDULE—*continued.*

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1898-99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
3 ...	Medical Establishments and Services	...	551 11 11	...	636 9 6
4 ...	Martial Law... ...	719 3 2	...	...	40 8 4
5 ...	Educational Services	...	1,422 8 6	...	161 11 9
6 ...	Scientific Services ...	2,897 18 0	..	...	5,423 0 7
7 ...	Royal Naval Reserves	...	13,683 11 1	...	188 13 1
8 ...	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :				
Sec. 1...	Personnel ...	191,318 6 8	...	12 7	
Sec. 2...	Matériel	192,715 5 7	...	...	43,268 14 0
Sec. 3...	Contract Work ...	...	749,758 9 6	2,053 13 10	
9 ...	Naval Armaments ...	...	8,525 13 6	73 15 11	
10 ...	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad... ...	91,241 9 9	...	...	10,752 7 3
11 ...	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	32,862 19 2	...	...	1,553 16 2
12 ...	Admiralty Office ...	500 5 8	...	...	1 17 9
13 ...	Half-pay, Reserved and Retired Pay ...	18,169 4 5	...	954 1 6	
14 ...	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	4,491 9 11	...	1,246 8 6	
15 ...	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,633 1 5	...	...	188 11 11
16 ...	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	...	486 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable ...	2,654 14 2			
		637,516 8 3	825,980 6 6	6,853 13 5	65,914 3 3

Net Surplus, £188,463 18 3 Net Surplus, £59,060 9 10

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £247,524 8 1

That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (as corrected by the Second Report of the Committee of Public Accounts of the present session), and the statement appended thereto as follows, viz. :—

(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £268,594 1s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £100,615 14s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £167,978 7s. 7d.

(*b*.) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £48,828 14s. 6d. as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of the other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £226,126 0s. 9d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £177,297 6s. 3d.

(*c*.) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses ...	278,806	12	5
Total Deficits ...	269,487	13	9
Net Surplus ...	£9,318	18	8

That by a Vote of Parliament during the present session (House of Commons Paper No. 90, of 1900) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1898-9, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £168,070 2s. 6d.

That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

SCHEDULE.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898–99. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, etc., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	29,358 10 11	...	...	100,529 17 8
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, etc.	35,054 5 1	...	55 13 11	
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, etc.	...	6,354 14 6	319 5 8	
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances... ...	1,489 17 9	...	...	1 8 10
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances	...	1,840 2 1	...	743 18 2
6	Transport and Remounts	119,933 3 0	...	...	9,950 19 8
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	...	45,524 2 1	...	22,810 6 0
8	Clothing Establishments and Services	74,108 15 0	...	...	8,251 0 11
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	17,716 17 6	...	58,131 3 11
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	1,872 14 3	...	48 384 14 2	

SCHEDULE—*continued.*

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1898-99 Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
11	Establishments for Military Education... ...	...	2,332 10 4	...	2,063 8 1
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	404 5 5	...	...	53 16 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	...	1,815 12 7	...	347 4 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, etc.	...	20,619 8 5	...	19,327 0 0
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, etc....	...	4,412 6 8	...	3,915 16 1
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances	6,132 0 7	...	69 0 9	
	Balances irrecoverable ...	240 9 9			
		268,594 1 9	100,615 14 2	48,828 14 6	226,126 0 9
	Add Excess Vote	...	100 0 0		
			100,715 14 2		
		Net Deficit, £167,878 7 7		Net Surplus, £177,297 6 3	
		Net Surplus £9,418 18 8			

—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Resolutions agreed to.

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RELIEF BILL [Lords.]

Considered in Committee, and reported, without amendment; read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes after One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 3rd August, 1900.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.

Petition of Charles Botolph Joseph, Lord Mowbray, Lord Segrave, and Baron and Lord Stourton of Stourton in the county of Wilts, to Her Majesty to determine the abeyance of the dignity of Earl of Norfolk in his favour, and to summon him to Parliament as Earl of Norfolk; together with Her Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the Report of the Attorney General thereon thereunto annexed; Presented (by Command), read, and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD CORPORATION (WATER) BILL [H.L.].

MORLEY CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendment considered, and agreed to.

KINGSCOURT, KEADY, AND ARMAGH RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL.

Read 3ª, and passed.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

WORKINGTON RAILWAYS AND DOCKS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

FRASER SETTLED CHATTELS BILL [H.L.].

MUIRKIRK, MAUCHLINE, AND DALMELLINGTON RAILWAYS (ABANDONMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

TRAMWAYS PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL

ALEXANDRA PARK BILL.

BRAY AND ENNISKERRY RAILWAY BILL.

CHRISTCHURCH AND BOURNEMOUTH TRAMWAYS BILL.

COVENTRY CORPORATION BILL.

DEVONPORT CORPORATION BILL.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL.

HASTINGS CORPORATION BILL.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 1) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL

METROPOLIS GAS (PREPAYMENT METER) BILL,

CHANGED FROM

GAS LIGHT AND COKE, COMMERCIAL GAS, AND SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL.

MID-KENT WATER BILL.

NEWRY, KEADY, AND TYNAN LIGHT RAILWAY BILL.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

PLYMOUTH, STONEHOUSE, AND DEVONPORT TRAMWAYS BILL.

ROCHDALE CORPORATION BILL.

SCARBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-ROAD BILL.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION BILL.

SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION BILL.

TAUNTON CORPORATION BILL.

TOTTENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [H.L.].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 4) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Minute, dated 31st July, 1900, modifying Article 101 (*g*) of the Day School Code, 1900.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return, for the year ended 31st August, 1899, showing, under county boroughs and administrative counties, for each public elementary school inspected in England and Wales—

1. The name and denomination of school ;
2. The number of scholars for whom accommodation was provided ;
3. The average number of scholars in attendance ;
4. The annual grant paid ;
5. Particulars of school income and expenditure.

NAVY (HEALTH).

Statistical Report of the health of the Navy, for the year 1899.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS.

Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the strikes and lock-outs of 1899; with statistical tables.

WAGES (STANDARD TIME RATES).

Report on standard time rates of wages in the United Kingdom in 1900 ; with comparative tables.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

Abstract of the Returns made to the Board of Trade of shipping casualties which occurred on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899 ; and shipping casualties which occurred to British vessels elsewhere than on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, and to foreign vessels on or near the coasts, or in rivers or harbours, of British Possessions abroad, reported during the same period ; with charts and appendices.

CUSTOMS.

Forty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs, for the year ended 31st March, 1900.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

1. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1899.

2. Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1900, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), 34th and 35th Victoria, chap. 78 ; together with reports of the inspecting officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

3. Similar Returns during the six months ended 30th June, 1900.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2497. British Central Africa Protectorate.

No. 2498. France (Society Islands).

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND).

Sixty-second Annual Report of the Registrar-General, for 1899.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account of deposits in Naval Savings Banks and the payments thereof, and of interest thereon, of all investments under the Naval Savings Banks Act, 1866, and the application of the interest or dividends accruing in respect thereof and of the proceeds of any sale of any stocks, annuities, or securities during the finanical year 1898-99.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report by the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1900.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Acts.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Fourteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors (for 1899).

SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (for 1899).

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Return for the year ended 31st March, 1900, of the Army and Navy officers permitted under Rule 2 of the regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, to hold civil employment of profit under public departments.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RELIEF BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and suspended for the remainder of the session.

Ordered, That Bills have precedence over Notices this day.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—DOCUMENTS FOUND AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA SAID TO IMPLICATE M.P.'S.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Seeing the noble Earl the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in his place, I beg to ask him a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether it is true, as has been stated in the newspapers, that certain letters and important documents implicating certain Members of Parliament and others have been discovered in Pretoria, and, if so, whether the documents will be laid upon the Table of the House.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the facts are as follows. When the Boer Governments fled from Bloemfontein and Pretoria, they left behind them in the archives a mass of private correspondence. This correspondence has been under examination by the British authorities on the spot, and by the last two mails Her Majesty's Government have received instalments of it, but we are informed that there is more to come. The portion that we have seen is all previous to the outbreak of the war, and consists chiefly of letters passing between British subjects at the Cape and persons in the two Republics, but includes copies of two letters purporting to have been written by an English Member of Parliament. Her Majesty's Government have also in their possession copies of letters and an extract of a letter purporting to have been written by two other Members of Parliament. Two of them were dated just before the outbreak of war; the other is a request, couched in a form which is certainly open to criticism, for information respecting the administration of martial law. The most interesting feature of the South African correspondence is the general admission of substantial grievances and of the necessity for reform. There are, however, some suggestions that President Kruger might make temporary concessions and wait for a reaction in this country. I am, of course, quite incompetent to give a legal opinion, but as far as the personal opinion of the Secretary of State for the Colonies is concerned, none of the letters ascribed to British subjects in this country are treasonable, but they are not proper letters to be written by British subjects when Her Majesty's Government were engaged in difficult and important negotiations. We propose to send them in the first instance to the alleged writers and to ask if they desire to offer any explanation. Her Majesty's Government will await their reply before deciding on the question of publication.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, this is a small measure relating to a considerable variety of subjects connected with education, which has been passed without amendment through the other House. It may properly be described as an omnibus Bill, containing as it does proposals for the amendment of the law in various matters which have been found to require amendment in the course of the administration of the numerous Education Acts. The first clause enables the average attendance for the purpose of the fee grant to be calculated in the same way as for the annual grant. The two calculations at present are made in different ways, and that has been found to result in considerable inconvenience. The second clause, as to which I shall have something to say in a moment, enables boards of guardians to contribute towards the support of public elementary schools to which children under their charge are sent. The third clause relieves an injustice under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, under which a parish which is in a school board district has to defray all its own expenses, and to contribute to the expenses of parishes in the same urban or rural district which have not got school boards. This clause has the concurrence of the Local Government Board. The first sub-section of Clause 4 is intended to make provision for the conveyance of children to and from industrial schools, and incidental to the sending out of children on licence. The Home Office and the Local Government Board have been consulted, and concur in the expediency of this clause. The second sub-section of the same clause enables local authorities to contribute towards the ultimate disposal of children sent to industrial schools at their instance. This provision is also inserted on the recommendation of the Home Office. The fifth clause provides that where two or more school boards combine for the establishment of a joint industrial school under a joint body of managers, the enactments relating to the audit of school board accounts shall apply as if the joint body of managers were a school board. That clause has been inserted on the recommendation of the Local Government Board and the Home Office. The first sub-section of Clause 6 allows local bye-laws to be made requiring school attendance up to the age of fourteen, instead of thirteen, as at present. The various Acts are extremely complicated, and to a certain extent conflicting, on this subject, and endless trouble is entailed both on the Education Department and on the local authorities by the inconsistencies of the present law. The second sub-section of the same clause raises from 5s. to £1 the maximum fine for a breach of the bye-law requiring attendance. It has been found that many parents prefer to pay a fine of 5s. rather than lose the value of the child's work. The third sub-section of the same clause provides that Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, shall have effect as if the sanction therein referred to were the sanction of the Board of Education instead of the sanction of Her Majesty in Council. Clause 7 enacts that in paragraph 2 of the First Schedule to the Elementary Education Act, 1876 (which relates to the standard of previous due attendance at a certified efficient school), 350 shall be substituted for 250. This Bill, as I have said, has passed through the other House without amendment, although the Vice-President of the Council undertook that a small verbal Amendment, which I shall move, should be made in this House. The only clause which gave rise to any difference of opinion was that which enables guardians to contribute equitably to the support of a school to which children under their charge are sent. The case is this: it has long been the practice to send children who were formerly educated within the poorhouse itself, to the nearest elementary school, and it is considered by the local authorities, as well as by the educational authorities, that it is a great deal better that pauper children should be thus treated. Obviously, it is a hardship upon the ratepayers if the parish in which the workhouse is situated is called upon to bear the cost of the education of the whole union, and this Bill enables the guardians to distribute the cost equitably over the whole union. It has also become of late to a very considerable extent the practice, instead of maintaining children in the workhouse, for guardians to send them out into country districts, either into homes or to be boarded out. Their education also falls upon the parish from which they are sent, and in cases where these children are boarded out in large numbers it may constitute a heavy burden on the parish. It is for the purpose of meeting these cases that this clause is inserted. It is one of voluntary application, and the guardians are not bound to make this contribution unless satisfied as to its expediency. This clause is obviously a just one, but it was discovered, by, I think, some captious critics in the other House, that the principle of aiding Voluntary schools out of the rates might be involved, and some opposition was raised to the clause on that account. I can only repeat what was said by the Vice-President, that no such intention was ever dreamt of by the framers of this Bill. It was simply introduced as an act of justice, to achieve the objects I have already explained. I do not think that, upon consideration, your Lordships will hold that any dangerous principle is involved in this clause. I do not know whether any noble Lord present would wish to have an opportunity of discussing the Bill more fully, but as the session is drawing to a close I believe it would be convenient if the Bill could be put through all its stages to-night, because it will have to go back to the House of Commons for that House to agree to the Amendments which I shall move. But if any noble Lord should desire to further discuss the matter I will defer the Committee stage till Monday.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I cannot say that I regard the whole of this Bill with satisfaction. My objections apply principally to the second clause, and are in the direction indicated by the noble Duke. With regard to all the clauses after that, I have nothing to say. I believe them to be beneficial and very useful clauses. If I had had more opportunity of making myself thoroughly acquainted with the first clause, to which, I understand, very considerable objection is raised, I should have had something to say with regard to it; but as I do not understand the precise mode in which the calculation of the average attendance will be made under this clause, I shall only observe that I am informed that it is expected it will bear hardly on many schools and diminish their efficiency. As to the second clause, I entirely sympathise with the desire to facilitate the sending of children from the workhouse to schools outside. I know, from my own experience, that this is most beneficial to the children, and I can conceive nothing more desirable than that this practice should be extended. But my objection is the same as that which the noble Duke said was raised by certain captious critics in the other House—it is that you are for the first time, so far as I know, going to authorise the application of the rates to the support of Voluntary schools. Not only that, they are to contribute towards "the expenses of providing, enlarging, or maintaining" these schools. I have no objection to their contributing to Voluntary schools where there are no other schools available, but I most strongly object to the principle that the rates of the whole union should be applied to the support of a Voluntary school without the board of guardians being directly represented on the management. I am perfectly certain the noble Duke will find that the feeling on that point is stronger than he supposes. I think it is only right that where schools are made use of by the whole union, the expense should not fall on the particular parish in which the workhouse happens to be situated; but you ought, in common justice, to give the board of guardians representation on the board of management of the school. You are going for the first time in the history of our education policy to allow the rates to be applied to the support and even the building of Voluntary schools, and I think you will find that you have thrown down an apple of discord, the effect of which can only be allayed by giving to boards of guardians a distinct share in the management of schools which receive money from the rates under this Bill. I will not throw any impediment in the way of the Government carrying the Bill through all its stages this evening; but I think the Bill ought to have been brought on at a time of the session when it could have received proper consideration from the House.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, with reference to the observations of the noble Earl opposite on this clause, I can only say, as was pointed out in the discussion on the Second Reading of the Bill in the other House, that this power which is conferred upon boards of guardians is wholly optional. It is within their discretion to take such precautions as they may think necessary in order to prevent any misapplication of the funds. If, as the noble Earl suggests, the board of guardians ought to be represented upon the committee of management of the school to which money is contributed, they have ample power to make that a condition of their assistance. It seems scarcely necessary to insist upon their being represented on the committee of management if they are satisfied that that power is not requisite.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I think it is a very reasonable thing, as I have already said, that the rates should be applied in this case, otherwise a very beneficent change in the management of workhouse children would be frequently obstructed. But I still think it ought not to be optional whether or not the guardians should be represented on the committee of management, because, in my opinion, that is a point of principle. I object on principle to public money being given out of the rates in support of denominational schools without the body contributing having a distinct voice in the management. If the noble Duke will forgive me for saying so, I do not think the explanation given by the Vice-President in any way removes that objection.

The Earl of Kimberley.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

Amendments moved—

"In Clause 6, line 16, after 'school' to insert 'or of an attendance order made under the Elementary Education Act, 1876'; and in line 19, after '1870,' to insert 'and in Section 12 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to, and Bill reported, with Amendments, to the House.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendments reported; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COMPANIES BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE expressed the opinion that the time allowed in Clause 7 for the filing with the registrar of the return of the allotments, etc., was too short. He therefore moved that the period be extended from fourteen days to one month.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 4, line 37, to leave out 'fourteen days' and insert 'one month.'"—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): If the noble Lord thinks this Amendment important I shall raise no objection to its insertion.

Amendment agreed to.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) (SALARIES, ETC.) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND) BILL.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without amendment. Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bills read 3ª, and passed.

NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD CHURCHILL: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to increase the reserve *personnel* of the Navy by maintaining a force to be called the Trained Reserve of Seamen and Marines, which shall be in addition to and distinct from (so far as the sources from which it is drawn are concerned) the present Royal Naval Reserve. This force is to consist of two classes—firstly, of petty officers and men of the seaman and stoker classes, and non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Marines, who have been awarded long service pensions. As regards men and boys already serving in Her Majesty's Navy, enrolment in this class will be at their option, but as regards those hereafter joining as seamen, stokers, or marines, the award of a long service pension will carry with it the obligation to join the said Reserve if so required, but no one shall have a claim to be admitted. The present Seamen Pensioner Reserve, numbering about 4,500, will be absorbed in this class. The men composing it are now liable to be called up in emergencies for service. It is expected that this class, with some new advantages as to clothing and drill, will gradually rise to 7,000 men. Secondly, the force will consist of a number, not exceeding 15,000, of petty officers and men of the seamen and stoker classes, non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Marines who have completed a twelve years engagement, and, at the discretion of the Admiralty, such men as have been allowed to leave the service with less than twelve years service. This class is designed to secure the seamen and marines who are not pensioned, but who have left active service. Enrolment in this class will be optional. The period of engagement will be five years, and for each re-engagement, if physically fit and of good character, five years, or (if over fifty) to complete fifty-five years. Each man in this class will be entitled to claim his discharge at the end of each successive period of five years, provided he is not at the time required by Royal Proclamation to serve in the Fleet. Reserve men in this class will be liable up to the age of fifty-five to serve three years in the Fleet in case of emergency, or five years if the period should be extended by Proclamation. I have particulars of the emoluments, clothing, and pensions, which, if your Lordships wish it, I will go into in detail; but as they were explained at length and agreed to in another place, perhaps it will not be considered necessary that I should do so.

Bill read 2ª (according to Order); Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª; Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (ISLE OF MAN) BILL.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION (JERSEY) BILL.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Read 2ª (according to Order); Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bills read 3ª, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, this is a Bill to amend certain clauses of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and it is essentially a Bill of details. It has been found necessary to make certain Amendments in the Act to which I have referred with a view to facilitating its working. I am told that a noble Lord desires to move some Amendments on the Committee stage, which I had proposed to take to-night, but, under the circumstances, I will put the Committee stage down for Monday, when I hope it will be convenient to your Lordships to take the remaining stages.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, the object of this Bill is merely to provide for the alteration of the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order, 1899. Under the Bill the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, by Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament, annul or vary either generally, or, on the application of the council of any particular county, as respects that county, any provision in the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order, 1899.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order); Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3^a, and passed.

RESERVE FORCES BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order) and agreed to.

VOLUNTEERS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order).

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, there is rather an important Amendment in the second clause of the Bill. Your Lordships will recollect that when the Bill passed through this House considerable objection was raised to a clause under which we took power to make arrangements with Volunteers by which they might be liable for service beyond the limits of the United Kingdom. On further consideration we have decided not to press that clause, and it has been omitted from the Bill.

Commons Amendments agreed to.

Lord Ashbourne.

DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA.

Ordered, That the message of condolence agreed to yesterday be sent to Her Royal and Imperial Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duchess of Edinburgh; and that the Lord Chancellor do communicate the said message to Her Majesty's Minister at Saxe-Coburg, with a request that he will attend the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha for the purpose of conveying it to Her Royal and Imperial Highness.

CONSTITUTION AND CHARACTER OF THE RESERVE FORCES.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, in calling attention to the Ministerial military measures I would ask your Lordships' indulgence for a few moments while I give the grounds on which I have ventured to put this notice on the Paper. My noble friend the Secretary of State for War, in the course of a discussion upon military matters the other day, stated that I disapproved of every measure which had not been initiated by myself. On that occasion I thought I made it clear that all I did was not to initiate anything, but to take up a measure brought in, but subsequently dropped, by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War for putting the machinery of the ballot, which is rusty and useless, in a proper workable state. What is the position of that measure now? The noble Marquess said—

> "We have not changed our mind upon the question of the Militia Ballot Bill. We have laid a Bill on the Table in order that your Lordships might see the form it would take should legislation become necessary, but there never was any announcement of any intention with regard to that measure, and there never was, therefore, any abandonment of any intention."

The fact is, this Bill, which was essential for an emergency, has been laid, as it were, a corpse for dissection on your Lordships' Table. So far from not approving of any measure not introduced by myself, I heartily approve of much that my noble friend has done with reference to Army matters. I think the measures of the Government must be divided into two categories; in one category I place those measures which I think everybody must approve of, and in the other I place the measures which nobody can approve of except my noble friend who brought them in. I feel sure, for instance, that we all approve of what the Government have done to increase the Army. We all approve of the creation of the Irish Guards in recognition of the splendid valour displayed by the Irish troops in South Africa. Personally, I should like to see a regiment of Colonial Guards, and also a regiment of Indian Guards; for what could be grander and more patriotic than the action of the Colonials in the present war and the feeling which has been shown in India? My noble friend is endeavouring to increase the infantry, the cavalry, and the artillery. I hope he will be successful, and that he will get men, not boys, and efficient officers to command them. Further, we are to have improved guns and a Volunteer Reserve, and transport alike for Volunteers and Militia. I presume the noble Marquess means guns up to date and equal to any in any other part of the world, or, if possible, better. I should like to know if he means big guns of position, the want of which was greatly felt in this war. It is not to the credit of the War Office that we were without guns of this kind, especially when we find that the Boers and the Chinese have them, and that we had them forty years ago. I am glad my noble friend is paying attention to the Volunteer artillery, for the treatment of the Volunteer artillery has been almost incredible. Years ago there were field batteries of artillery, but during the time General Lindsay was at the War Office they were abolished—for what reason I cannot understand. I am glad my noble friend sees the importance of giving artillery to the Volunteers, and I trust he will be successful. Then, again, our cavalry went out to South Africa with a carbine sighted only to 1,000 yards, while the Boer rifles were sighted up to 3,000 yards. It is something very much like murder to send men out with weapons of this kind. There would be no difficulty in substituting the long rifle for the carbine. It will be necessary in future to substitute a telescope for the comparatively useless binocular. A deerstalker would think himself insane if he went out with a binocular, but that is what most of our officers have been doing in South Africa. A binocular magnifies twelve or twenty times, but my old deerstalking telescope of thirty years ago magnifies thirty-five times; and I contend that many of the Boers who have not been discovered by binoculars would have been discovered by good scouting and the use of the telescope. Having referred to the measures of the Government which we must all approve of, and pointed out those matters which seem to me not unworthy of the attention of my noble friend, I now come to the category in which I have placed the proposals of my noble friend which, I think, nobody except the officials at the War Office can approve of. The other day I ventured to say that the noble Marquess was putting our military system into the smelting-pot. He shook his head; but in answer to another noble Lord—on 26th July I think it was—he told the House—and I would ask your Lordships to note this—that the idea was to render the whole of the Militia force liable in time of war for service beyond the United Kingdom. That is entirely changing the constitution of the Militia force. My noble friend also proposed that every Volunteer battalion should have a company for foreign service. I can conceive nothing more fatal to the Volunteer force than to establish in it two descriptions of men, who will be called respectively the "Go-and-fights" and the "Stay-at-homes." This plan, however, was so unpopular and so contrary to the spirit of the Volunteer force that, thanks to the good sense of the House of Commons, that part of the measure has, I believe, been dropped. As regards Volunteers being thus turned to a wrong purpose, my feeling was so strong that I resigned the honorary colonelcy of my regiment, as a protest against the action of the Government and against the Volunteer forces' existence serving as an excuse for the non-enforcement of our military system. While approving of their patriotic zeal and admiring the enthusiasm which had led to their volunteering to serve, I could not but hold that, instead of going out as English Volunteers, they ought to have been made to resign their position in the Volunteer force and then constitute themselves Volunteers for South Africa. I am inclined to think that that is not an irrational or unreasonable view to take on this question. What my noble friend is doing is really taking away the foundation upon which our military system rests. I think that system is a very perfect system. It consists of three parts—firstly, of the

Army, which is voluntarily enlisted, paid, and bound at any time to go away; secondly, of the Militia force, also voluntarily enlisted and paid, and liable to be called out for home defence, but whose foreign service depends upon their volunteering for it; and, thirdly, of the Volunteers. The noble Marquess has stated that he would like to see the constitution of the Militia so changed as to render Militiamen liable to be sent anywhere the Government choose without having the choice of volunteering. I understand that my noble friend intends to do away with the Militia Reserve. I do not think it is sound policy, or even common sense, to get rid of what was thought to be a great gain militarily to the Army. It ought to be called the Militia Army Reserve. It was established by General Peel, and the idea then was that for every man who volunteered for the Militia Army Reserve another should be raised for the Militia. In that case Militia officers would have no cause to complain; they would have the regiments always full, and the nation would be the better for having a Militia Reserve. Happily, my noble friend cannot do away with the Militia Reserve without an Act of Parliament. I protest against all this tampering with our military system. It is, in fact, much more than tampering, because the Militia is the backbone of our military system. The step proposed is, therefore, a blow at the very foundation of that system. Why is this change proposed? Has the present system failed? Have you tried it? The answer is "No." And yet, without having tried it, you are going to revolutionise it, and take away its foundations. We all know why this is done. It is to avoid applying the existing law. I should like my noble friend to read an able article which appears in the current number of the *United Service Magazine.* It is written by Mr. T. Miller Maguire, M.A., LL.D., and is entitled "Compulsory Military Service in England. A Retrospect." In this article the writer shows that compulsory service, instead of being foreign to this nation, has been throughout the foundation of its military system. This is what he says—

> "I do not propose to discuss the desirability of conscription just now, or its expediency, having regard to the peculiar condition of our world-wide Empire, or its economy as compared with voluntary enlistment. I merely wish to prove by history and by references to writers of first authority that obligatory military service is conformable to the 'best traditions of our race,' that it is in no way antagonistic to the genius of our Constitution; that it is as much part and parcel of our Constitution as trial by jury or the co-relation of representation and taxation."

In a further passage Dr. Maguire says—

> "It is true obligatory service was avoided during the Crimean War, but at a shameful price and at the risk of war with other Powers as well as Russia, because of the cowardice of our Government and the ineptitude of our War Office."

How far these qualities are hereditary in the War Office I do not stop to consider. Dr. Maguire winds up his article by stating that—

> "Until some answer to or explanation of the facts above given be forthcoming it will be quite misleading on the part of the opponents of obligatory military service to allege that it is contrary to our traditions or to the genius of British liberty."

We are promised another article by the same writer, in which he will, he says, "try to prove that obligatory military service would be a blessing to all classes of our people." Much is heard of military reorganisation, but I venture to think that no reorganisation is necessary. What is wanted is firm and effective administration. My noble friend the Prime Minister in January last said he did not think the British Constitution, as at present worked, was a good fighting machine; but I do not accept this opinion that the machine is to blame. I believe the British Constitution, properly worked, is a good fighting machine. Our forefathers found it effective during the great Napoleonic wars, and I hope the result of all these discussions will be a more effective administration, and that the Government will see the necessity of a little courage, a little patriotism, and a little trust in the people in the matter of home defence.

Moved to resolve, "That any tampering with the foundation of our existing military system by changing the constitution and character of the Reserve forces is to be deprecated."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, when I first saw the notice which the noble Earl put upon the Paper I was, I confess, somewhat at a loss to know what particular subjects he intended to bring before your Lordships this evening. He announced his intention of calling attention to the Ministerial military measures. That is a rather comprehensive formula, and would have included anything, from the composition of the field forces in South Africa to the brown holland hats lately issued to the troops at Aldershot. The noble Earl has, I think, made it clear that what he desired to criticise was not the temporary, or, as they are sometimes termed emergency, measures adopted by Her Majesty's Government, but the more permanent changes which have been either embodied in Bills introduced during the present session or sketched in speeches delivered by the representatives of the War Office as measures reserved for consideration, perhaps for favourable consideration, hereafter. I am bound to say that it gave me great pleasure to hear the noble Earl tell us that with some of our military proposals he was very much in accord. I understood him to say that he approved of our proposals to add permanently to the strength of the Army. He also spoke in terms of commendation of our intention to add to the artillery; and in speaking of artillery he asked me whether he might assume that it was our intention to supply the artillery with guns of position. I very gladly answer that question in the affirmative. I think, with him, that one of the lessons of the present campaign is that a field force should have with it a certain number of guns heavier than ordinary field artillery. As I have said more than once in your Lordships' House, if we did not possess such an equipment at the outset of this war we certainly were not singular in that respect. There was no Continental army, I believe, which had as part of its equipment, for a mobile army in the field, heavy guns of the 4·7 type, which have done such good service during the present campaign. The noble Earl may take it from me that such guns will hereafter form part of our equipment. It is also the case that a large part of the Volunteer artillery, in which he expressed so warm an interest, will be armed with guns of that type, guns which will, I need not say, be guns of the most modern type. The noble Earl expressed a decided preference for the rifle over the carbine. That is a point upon which I feel that my opinion is worth very little, but he may rest perfectly assured that it is a point which will be carefully considered when we are in a position to put together and digest the experience that has been acquired during the war. I may say the same with regard to telescopes, but I am glad to be able to inform the noble Earl that at a very early stage in the present campaign we did send out a considerable supply of powerful telescopes to the troops in the field. I now come to what I conceive to be the gist of the noble Earl's motion—that part of it, namely, in which he asks this House to resolve that any tampering with the foundation of our existing military system is to be deprecated. The noble Earl told us what he meant when he spoke of tampering with the Reserve forces. He mentioned several points upon which he conceived that we had tampered both with the Volunteers and with the Militia. It is perfectly true, with regard to the Militia, that we have during the present war sent out of this country to South Africa and to the Mediterranean thirty-five battalions; and I must say it seems to me that, having these troops ready to our hand, knowing that we did want them outside of this country, and that there was no particular occasion for their services at home, we should have been greatly to blame had we not used such valuable material.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Hear, hear!

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: As to the tampering with the Volunteer force which the noble Earl alleges to have taken place when we sent out a certain number of Volunteer companies to South Africa, all I can say to that is that I believe no Minister of War and no Government would have ventured to refuse the offer made by the Volunteers of this country at the outset of this campaign. I will take upon myself to say that if the noble Earl himself, with all his long connection with the Volunteer force, with all the respect which the Volunteers feel for him, had gone into the City of London when the City Imperial Volunteers were welcomed by the Chief Magistrate of this city, and had told his audience that it was tampering with the constitution of the Volunteers to send any of them to South Africa, he would not have received a very respectful hearing. As to future tampering, which the noble Earl apprehends, he has referred at considerable length to a proposal with regard to the Militia which I put before the House the other night as a sketch of a plan which had been submitted to me, and which I said seemed to me to be worthy of favourable consideration. I mentioned on that occasion that that proposal was supported by a great number of well-known Militia officers and by many very high authorities upon Army questions. Your Lordships will recollect what the proposal was. It was simply this: that we should allow the whole of the Militia force to accept the same liability for service beyond the limits of the United Kingdom as is now accepted by the Militia Reserve. I still think that that is a hopeful proposal, and we shall certainly examine it further during the coming autumn; but it is obviously a proposal for an organic change in the constitution of the Militia. It will need to be very carefully examined in detail by Her Majesty's Government, and it will require, as the noble Earl has told your Lordships, legislation to carry it into effect. I do venture to suggest to your Lordships that it is not very useful or practical to spend our time in discussing a Bill which has not yet been drafted, but which will, of course, in due time come before Parliament.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I hope this discussion will prevent its coming before Parliament.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am afraid I can give the noble Earl's hope no encouragement whatever. The only remaining case of tampering with the Auxiliary forces which he alleged was the Volunteers Bill, which has just come back to your Lordships from the House of Commons. In the few observations I made in asking your Lordships to agree with the Commons Amendments, I pointed out that the provision which the noble Earl so keenly objects to—the provision, I mean, under which it was proposed that we might accept offers from Volunteers to serve beyond the limits of the United Kingdom—has had to be abandoned in the face of somewhat formidable criticism and the approaching end of the session. Therefore, when the noble Earl condemns and criticises that instance of tampering he is slaying the slain. That provision is no longer alive, and the only clause the Volunteer Bill now contains under which an additional liability can be imposed upon the Volunteer force is the clause under which we take power to agree with a certain number of Volunteers to do duty in fortresses and other important defensive positions in time of emergency without the necessity for a previous Proclamation. I submit that that use of the Volunteer force is entirely in accordance with the principle which the noble Earl has so often advocated—namely, that the Volunteer force is intended for the defence of these islands. The remainder of the noble Earl's observations were, I think, mainly directed to the now rather well-worn question of the Militia Ballot. That question has been fully and fairly discussed in the House. The noble Earl moved the Militia Ballot Bill which was rejected by a considerable majority, and I think he is hardly justified in calling upon us to reopen the discussion on that point. I am glad to find that the noble Earl does not entirely condemn the military measures which we have adopted. As for those which are yet to be considered, I must insist that we have a right to elaborate them without any interference from such a resolution as the one the noble Earl has asked your Lordships to agree to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I shall not, of course, press the motion. My object has been gained by the speech of my noble friend, who admits that, as far as he is now advised, he favours the digging up of the foundations of our military system. All I wish to do is to enter my protest against the digging up of the foundations of a system which has served us so well, and which, by a little courage on the part of those in office, would still serve us as in the past.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

THE POSITION OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY, who had the following notice on the Paper:—"To move for a Return of the Commanders-in-Chief during the nineteenth century who, being Members of this House, have refrained from expressing herein their opinions on military subjects,"—said: My Lords, I propose with regard to my motion to take a similar course to that pursued by the noble Earl who has preceded me. I do not propose to press for the Return I ask for, because I do not think it would lead to any fruitful result or to any great expenditure on the part of the Stationery Office. But I had no other means of calling attention to what occurred last Friday when I took part—being, after all, a Member of this House—in a manner which I thought to be not objectionable in a discussion raised by my noble friend. I was answered at once with great spirit, and, perhaps, with some little acerbity, by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State. The answer was quite conclusive in many ways; but it did not happen to deal with the points which I had raised in my speech. That is not an unusual occurrence in debate, but it is disadvantageous when you have no right of reply. My two points were these: first, that the condition of foreign feeling in respect to this country was not satisfactory, and in that respect I only re-echoed a speech which had been delivered with much greater force and much more chiaroscuro, if I may so express it, by the noble Marquess the Prime Minister some weeks before. It is, I know, not a popular task to call attention in this country to the state of feeling which exists with regard to us abroad. But I do not think that that ought to actuate a Member of your Lordships' House when he conceives it to be his duty to do so. I confess I was somewhat surprised to be told that I had no right to do so. The noble Marquess said that I had no right whatever to address your Lordships on questions of this kind without suggesting an alternative plan to that which he had proposed. I had never even mentioned his plan. He said, "The noble Lord is always coming down and criticising my plans." I only once criticised his plans. He might have remembered it because he gave me last Friday the same answer that he gave me then—that I had no right to speak on these questions without suggesting an alternative plan. My Lords, I am bound to say, with all goodwill and deference to my noble friend—who is one of the oldest friends that I have in this House—that I do not propose to be snubbed in the discharge of what I believe to be a public duty by remarks of that kind. Is it really suggested, I will not say by any Minister of the Crown, but by any sane man, that Members of this House are not to be allowed to discuss propositions laid before them by the Government, unless they can suggest an alternative scheme of their own? Is it really to be laid down as an axiom by Her Majesty's Government that a private peer, who is connected with no party, who has no military advisers, is bound, whenever he takes part in a debate which is remotely connected with military affairs, to produce an alternative plan? I have heard a great many extraordinary axioms in the few visits that I have paid to this House this year. I heard the noble Marquess at the head of the Government propound the theory that we had no right to discuss the Address unless we were prepared to move an Amendment to it.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): When?

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: On the night of the Address.* I think that was the axiom. He cheered a remark of very much the same tendency in the debate on Friday last. But I will drop that point. I only say that, of all the constitutional maxims which have ever been uttered in this House, that of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State is by far the most extraordinary. But I pass to the point I dealt with last Friday. I pointed out that we were in a grave condition as regards the feeling entertained for us abroad. I said that that required the greatest vigilance of our Ministers. Of course I was told, as I think we are usually told, to reassure those who are not quite satisfied with our means of home defence, that we had 200,000 odd men 7,000 miles away. It is one of the strangest arguments for reassuring those anxious for home defence that ever I heard of; but I proceeded to urge that a few words from an expert would be a great comfort and consolation to the people of this country. In my judgment the opinion of experts in support of the Government would be very reassuring at this juncture. In the first place, the utterances of the Government have not been reassuring. The speech of the noble Marquess the Prime Minister, uttered to the Primrose League, in which he painted in the darkest colours the position of this country in regard to foreign opinion, and the still more startling moral which he drew from it—that we should rely for our defence on the use of the rifle by the Primrose League—was one which by no means gave inspiration and courage to any faltering spirit in this country. I will give another reason why expert opinion would be of great value in a discussion of this kind. As far as I can judge of it from what is printed in the public press and in the monthly magazines, which supply us with so much copious and useful information, the great balance of expert opinion—I will not say the unanimity of expert opinion, but the overwhelming balance—is hostile to the proposals and the military policy of Her Majesty's Government. In those circumstances, with the greatest possible confidence in the noble Marquess, and being well aware of the arduous task which he has had to undertake, I did not think it presumptuous to call attention to the fact that we had had no expert testimony in support of the military policy of the Government. The noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War may say that his *ipse dixit*, his declaration, should be amply sufficient, that those who hear him hear embodied in his words all the expert opinion which lurks at the War Office. Well, perhaps five years ago I might have said that that was a sound constitutional doctrine. But we had a startling object lesson five years ago about the War Office and expert opinion. There was a question of the adequacy of our stores of ammunition under the late Government. The then Secretary of State for War, who is now the respected Leader of the Liberal Opposition in the House of Commons, gave a positive assurance to the House that the stores of ammunition were ample and that they satisfied his military experts. On the doctrine of the noble Marquess, the Opposition of that day were bound to be satisfied with that assurance; but as the debate proceeded, and as it was clear that the Opposition were not satisfied with the assurance, the opinion of his experts was, so to speak, squeezed out of my right hon. friend. His experts all alleged, for good reason shown, that the stock of the particular kind of ammunition in question was amply sufficient for all necessary purposes; and yet, in spite of the assurances of the then Secretary of State for War, backed up by all the expert opinion at the War Office, the Opposition, which now sits on the benches opposite, and which is represented by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War, came to a vote and turned out the Government of the day on that precise issue. I do not complain of that process—it may have been salutary—but I cannot conceive now that the party that took up that position in a juncture so critical, and which did not scruple to oust the Government of the day on a question as to which the Secretary for War had uttered his opinion as Secretary of State for War, and had fortified it by experts—I cannot admit that the party which then took that line are justified now in refusing to give us any expert opinion in support of their judgment. Then I proceeded to say that under these circumstances it was pleasant to remember that we had in the House of Lords a distinguished officer, the Commander-in-Chief, whom we should be glad to see oftener amongst us, from whom a word on the subject of the military policy of the Government would be more reassuring than a great many of the civilian statements which we have heard. For that I was taken to task with some causticity by the noble Marquess and with more benignity by my noble friend behind me (the Earl of Kimberley). I was told that my object was to attempt to degrade the Commander-in-Chief into a politician. Nothing was more remote from my idea, but I confess that, if my wish were to be carried out, I should have more officers non-political and less officers political than is now the case. So far from wishing to make the Commander-in-Chief political, I would gladly see the War Office non-political, and I would gladly see the Admiralty non-political, and if it were possible—I know none of those things are possible, I am only speaking of a Utopia—I would have the Foreign Office also non-political. Therefore, nothing was further from my idea than to say that the Commander-in-Chief should be forced down to a sort of Under Secretary in order to support, at all hazards, the measures proposed by the chief of the War Office. But I do say this, that we have a right to expect that the opinion of the War Office shall be fortified to

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* The reference is probably to the remarks of Lord Salisbury reported in *The Parliamentary Debates*, Fourth Series, Vol. lxxviii., at page 33.—[ED.]

The Earl of Rosebery.

some extent by expert opinion—not expert opinion lurking in the red box of the Secretary for War, but expert opinion so far as is consistent with the public service, and which can be produced to reassure the minds of men. The noble Marquess seems to think that there is prevalent in this country a blind and venerating confidence in the methods and the policy of the War Office. Now I am bound to say that, if any good is to be done, he must disabuse himself of that idea. There is not that blind and unreasoning confidence in the War Office. There is, I think, some unreasoning criticism. I think the noble Marquess himself has been subjected to much more criticism than is fair for much of what has transpired during this war, and I for one have never criticised him in that spirit or with that desire. But to go to the other extreme and constitute a sort of civilian Pope at the War Office, who shall utter his dictum with a position of infallibility, is, I confess, a much greater transition of things than this country is prepared to adopt. We are told that the Commander-in-Chief is not to come down to this House. We have always piqued ourselves, in our after-dinner speeches in replying to the toast of the House of Lords, on the variety and richness of the elements of which it is composed. We have pointed to the Commander-in-Chief himself, if I mistake not, as one of those rich and composite elements. We have, indeed, endeavoured to strengthen that military element. I remember the noble Marquess proposed a great Bill for the reform of this House. As far as I recollect, that abortive measure included an accession to the strength of this House of a number of military and naval experts, who were to come and give their opinions on matters of this kind. The Bill was lost, and with it we lost the military and naval experts who were to be brought in; but I fail to see that that is any reason for not utilising those that we have. I am not prepared to draw any rash conclusion from the silence of the Commander-in-Chief. I am not prepared to say that he is not in cordial agreement with the Secretary of State for War in all that the Secretary of State has done. I have no information on that point, and if I had any information I certainly should not use it in a public assembly of this kind. But, at the same time, there is the position of the Secretary of State himself, and I think it would be greatly fortified if he had the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief to support him when he develops his military policy. If the Commander-in-Chief is unable to attend, I for one can only regret it. I venture to think that our experience in this House is hostile to the idea that the Commander-in-Chief is not to attend its sittings. I do not suppose many of your Lordships are able to go back beyond the time of the late Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge, but that illustrious Duke was never chary of giving his opinion on military matters, and we listened to it with that respect which was due to his great service and unrivalled experience. I should be sorry if I saw the Commander-in-Chief become a political officer, but I should be sorry in a minor degree if it was to be held by this House, or by any Government in this House, that the Commander-in-Chief, the highest authority in military matters, should be entirely excluded from debates in this House.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I cannot quite accept the description given by the noble Earl of the discussion which took place in your Lordships' House the other evening. The noble Earl has stated that I said he had no right to speak on a military question unless he had an alternative policy of his own to propose. Now it is not in my power nor in that of anyone else to deny the right enjoyed by every Member of this House of speaking when he pleases to do so. What actually happened was this: there had been a considerable number of military debates during the present session, and I had received from many of your Lordships useful suggestions in regard to the military measures which we had announced; but the noble Earl has made few visits to the House, and he has taken no part in these discussions. He has, however, come down at least on two occasions, and on these occasions he has expressed himself in the gloomiest and most despondent terms with regard to our state of military preparedness.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I did not express any opinion about our military preparation, but about the hostility of foreign countries.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: But on neither of these occasions has he ever told your Lordships what there was in our proposals that he objected to, nor has he added any suggestion of his own. If he will look at the report of what I said he will find that I expressed my belief that the noble Earl might at least have given us some indication as to the defects of what we ourselves proposed, and some indication of the measures that he himself would have adopted. I do not think that that was unreasonable. The noble Earl has spoken of himself with great humility as a private Member of this House, but I hope he will forgive me for saying that he cannot claim to address this House without the great responsibility which attaches to the high official position he has filled. I therefore do think I was justified in complaining of him as I did for having made what I think I called rather infructuous criticisms of the policy of Her Majesty's Government. The noble Earl is evidently under the impression that our military proposals are the result of the labours of the civilian members of the War Office, and that they have no support from our military experts. That is a fallacy which seems to have received considerable currency at the present time. It is almost superfluous for me to tell the House that since this war began there has not been a week, there has scarcely been a day, in which the civilian and military members of the War Office have not met at the same table in order to discuss from time to time the arrangements and the military measures that were being taken. I can speak with full knowledge of the discussions which have taken place, and I can say that the measures which have been adopted by Her Majesty's Government and explained to Parliament are regarded both by the soldiers and civilians at the War Office as the best and most effective measures which could have been taken in the time and with the material at our disposal. As to the position of the Commander-in-Chief in this House, the noble Earl is quite right in saying that the Return for which he asks could be supplied without very much difficulty. I am able to give the noble Earl this information. During the present century there have been six commanders-in-chief, predecessors of Lord Wolseley, of whom five have been members of this House, and of whom two have been Princes of the Royal Family; and I believe I am right in saying that none of those who were Members of this House have refrained from making statements in this House and taking part in its debates. The frequency with which they took part in debates varied considerably. The Duke of York spoke only once on Indian military affairs. The Duke of Wellington spoke occasionally. I find that Lord Hill made two complimentary speeches with regard to the conduct of military operations, and also explained why it was that a sentry had stopped the Lord Chancellor's carriage. It is curious the way in which history repeats itself. I believe the noble Earl on the Woolsack was subjected two years ago to a somewhat similar indignity.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: No. It was the Lord Chief Justice.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: But the noble and learned Lord was content to send a private remonstrance to the War Office rather than call upon the Commander-in-Chief to explain the incident in your Lordships' House. Lord Hardinge spoke occasionally, and the Duke of Cambridge was in the habit of frequently taking part in our debates. But I cannot find in the speeches delivered by those noble and illustrious peers any trace of any such practice as that which I understand the noble Earl desires—namely, that the Commander-in-Chief should be brought down here for the purpose of corroborating the statements made by the representative of the War Office on this bench. That was the proposal to which I took exception, and that was the proposal to which, speaking at much greater length and with more fully reasoned argument, the noble Earl on the Front Opposition Bench also took such exception. But I am bound to say that even if the noble Earl had been able to point to cases in which commanders-in-chief in the first part of the present century, or even during the time the illustrious Duke held office, had been in the habit of coming down to support the representative of the War Office in this House, I should not have been by any means convinced by that reason that the practice is a sound one in present circumstances. The noble Earl must know that the position of the Duke of Cambridge as Commander-in-

Chief was entirely different from that of the noble and gallant Viscount who now fills the office. The Duke of Cambridge held the office without limit of time. As a matter of fact, he held the chief command of the Army for nearly forty years. Under the present arrangement, which was virtually settled while the noble Earl was still in power, the chief command of the Army is held for a term of five years only, and that, to my mind, makes a considerable difference in what I may call the political position of the Commander-in-Chief. But besides that, the Duke of Cambridge, as a member of the Royal Family, was dissociated from party politics in a sense that no one who is not a Prince of the Blood is ever likely to be. We know that members of the Royal Family are able to take a useful and busy part in public affairs without in any way involving themselves in party ties or connections. Therefore, I put aside altogether any precedent to be drawn from the case of the Duke of Cambridge. I remain very strongly of the opinion that I ventured to express the other evening—that it is most undesirable that we should do anything, not, as the noble Earl said, to degrade the Commander-in-Chief into a political partisan, but, as I said, to turn the Commander-in-Chief into something like a political partisan. I believe that any arrangement under which it would come to be understood that the Government case was not established until the Minister was able to produce something like a certificate from the Commander-in-Chief would be bad in the interest of the Commander-in-Chief himself, injurious to the interests of the Army, and be at variance with the recognised principles of our Constitution. As the noble Earl on the Front Bench opposite truly said the other evening, if this change were made in the case of the War Office we should also have to make it with regard to the Admiralty. I judge from the speech of the noble Earl who introduced the subject that he would like to carry matters a good deal further still. But I object to any innovation of that kind, in the first place, for the sake of the gallant officers themselves who would be affected by it. We have not all of us that happy fluency of expression which distinguishes the noble Earl below the gangway, and I know many admirable soldiers and sailors, eminently fitted for high official employment, who would be quite incapable of coming to Parliament and assisting in the presentation of a Ministerial defence. I should be sorry to add to their responsibilities, which are already sufficiently numerous, the duty of from time to time taking up the cudgels in Parliament on behalf of the Government of the day. If that were done, I am afraid what would happen would be something of this kind. The gallant officer would either perform his task skilfully or he would not. If he performed it unskilfully he would greatly damage the Government case and damage it unfairly. If, on the other hand, he became a skilful advocate, I am very much afraid it would lead him to put on one side for the time the duties properly belonging to him in his office. We should find the Commander-in-Chief, instead of working out the military problem of the moment, devoting his time to the preparation of eloquent speeches for delivery in this House. I am also inclined to think that any practice of the sort would tend to weaken the position of the Commander-in-Chief in the eyes of the Army. I think it is most important that the Commander-in-Chief, as well as the corresponding official at the Admiralty, should have the full confidence of the service to which he belongs. In my experience the soldier who is also a politician is apt not to be very much trusted in the Army. Whether that is right or wrong I do not say, but it is so undoubtedly. You would have this kind of thing said: "General So-and-So owes his appointment, or the extension of his term of office, or his promotion, not to his military abilities, but to the fact that he held the fort so well for the Government in some hard-fought military debate." I think, therefore, the practice would be a bad thing for the Army itself. And last, but certainly not least, I agree with what was said by the noble Earl opposite as to the constitutional aspect of the matter. I take it that the constitutional position is this—the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State alone, is responsible to Parliament, and the Commander-in-Chief is responsible to the Secretary of State as his principal military adviser under the Order in Council. So long as those two officers continue to hold the positions assigned to them, so long it must be assumed that each of them is satisfied with the arrangements made by the Department with which he is connected. Of course these are minor matters in which there must be give and take; but if the Secretary of State is not properly supported by his colleagues, or the Commander-in-Chief is not properly supported by the Government of the day, he ought not to remain in a position in which he is prevented from adequately discharging his duty. These are the views I ventured to express to the House the other evening, and I still adhere to them. While, no doubt, my noble and gallant friend the Commander-in-Chief has a perfect right to appear in this House and address your Lordships when it may please him to do so, I confess I think he is well advised in sticking to his desk in the War Office, and leaving the Parliamentary representatives of the Department to say what is to be said on its behalf in Parliament.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, the excuse that I have to offer to your Lordships for making a few remarks on this question is that I happen to have been connected with both the Army and the Navy for a longer period than probably any other Member of your Lordships' House. The question raised by Lord Rosebery is one of very great importance—namely, how far it is desirable that the opinion of experts should be called for upon any subject which is being dealt with by Parliament. I have no hesitation in giving an answer. It must rest with the Government of the day to decide whether or not the opinion of experts in the War Office or the Admiralty should be presented to Parliament. It would be impossible, in my opinion, to carry on these great Departments if there was any obligation on the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War to produce, at call, the opinions of their naval and military advisers. But on the question whether it is advisable that the Commander-in-Chief, being a Member of this House, should address your Lordships on military questions, I am not prepared to agree altogether with the view just expressed by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War. When I had the honour of being Under Secretary for War, and having the conduct of Army affairs in your Lordships' House, I found upon many occasions that the opinions expressed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who was then Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, were of great value and assistance in the discussion of military matters; and when the noble Marquess tells your Lordships that the discussion of military questions in either House of Parliament by officers serving either in the War Office or in the Admiralty is at variance with the recognised principles of the Constitution I venture entirely to differ from him. Lord Cardwell, when he was Secretary of State for War, thought it was of so great importance that he should have the assistance of experts in the House of Commons that he created the office of Surveyor General of Ordnance and engaged the services of Sir Henry Storks, who for some time filled that position. In both Houses of Parliament Lords of the Admiralty have sat and taken part constantly in Naval debates. The first I recollect was the late Lord Fitzhardinge, who not infrequently assisted in the Naval debates in the House of Commons as Sir Maurice Berkeley. There are others. Sir John Hay was in the House of Commons; so was Lord John Hay; Lord Clarence Paget was Secretary to the Admiralty; Lord Charles Beresford was in the House of Commons as a Lord of the Admiralty; and Lords Clanwilliam and Alcester sat in your Lordships' House when they were Members of the Board of Admiralty. Therefore I cannot agree that it is contrary to the constitution that naval and military officers should take part in debates.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: When I used the constitutional argument, I was referring to what I understood was suggested by the noble Earl (the Earl of Rosebery)—namely, that when a Ministerial statement was made it should be corroborated by expert evidence, and that until it was so corroborated it was not satisfactory to the House.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I should be glad if the noble Marquess would tell me when and where I said any such thing.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl suggested that it was desirable that the Commander-in-Chief should be present to give the weight of his assurance and support to the schemes that were being suggested, and he complained that there was not a single word from the noble Viscount the Commander-in-Chief assuring the House that we were amply prepared for all contingencies. I was referring to the suggestion that the Commander-in-Chief should be called to corroborate the Minister.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I am very glad to have heard the explanation of the noble Marquess on that particular point, but still he undoubtedly argued that it was undesirable that the Commander-in-Chief, as a Member of your Lordships' House, should take part in debates. I do not agree with that opinion for the reasons I have already stated; and I differ from the noble Marquess when he says that if the Commander-in-Chief took part in the debates in your Lordships' House it would weaken his authority in the Army. I am satisfied that the reputation and authority in the Army of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was in no way diminished by the part he took in the debates of this House. It is very difficult to say whether the balance of advantage is on one side or the other. Of course, neither your Lordships nor the House of Commons could upon an important question receive any real answer excepting from the Ministers responsible for both services. What I say, shortly, is that if there happens to be in this House a military officer of distinction holding the office of Commander-in-Chief I see no disadvantage in his taking part in the debates. But the important question is whether or not the views of the military and naval officers who are serving at the War Office and the Admiralty have sufficient weight in the decisions that are come to by the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War. Speaking of the Admiralty, I have no hesitation in saying that the opinions of the Naval members of the Board of Admiralty have sufficient weight in the decision of all Naval matters. Your Lordships know that the power of the Crown over the Navy is delegated by Commission to the Board of Admiralty, and the Naval members of that Board have a constitutional position in respect to the management of the affairs of the Navy. The Naval members of the Board of Admiralty have not for a great many years been selected in regard to their political opinions. I remember during the Crimean War the Senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty was Sir Richard Dundas, a member of a well-known Tory family, although a Liberal Administration was in office; and the present First Lord of the Admiralty, when he assumed office, took over the whole of the Board that had been serving with Lord Spencer in the preceding Government. The opinions of Naval members of the Board of Admiralty have great weight in the decisions upon all Naval affairs. They may be considered as a kind of Cabinet, with the First Lord of the Admiralty as Prime Minister. During the ten years that I was connected with the Admiralty in different capacities I can recollect no instance of anything but the most cordial co-operation between the Naval members of the Board and the First Lord. All questions of importance were discussed, and the Naval Lords had the power of expressing their opinion. I well remember the programme of shipbuilding I had to propose to your Lordships in 1884. We met on eight or nine different days to discuss that programme. But I happen to know there have been differences of opinion. I know that on one occasion the Naval members of the Board, not being satisfied with the condition of affairs in respect to the strength of the Fleet, wrote and signed a Memorial or Memorandum which was given to the then First Lord of the Admiralty and submitted to the Cabinet; and I believe the Naval Lords obtained the addition they desired. I think I have shown to your Lordships that in the case of the Admiralty expert opinion is amply represented, both in the office itself and also, if necessary, before the Cabinet. As regards the Army, I am not so satisfied that the condition of things is equally satisfactory, and for this reason—that in the Memorandum which was issued by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War in respect to the duties of the principal officers of the Department, I notice that the consultation of the different military experts in the War Office by the Secretary of State depends entirely upon the will and pleasure of the Secretary of State. There is, no doubt, a provision for a Council, but there are no regular meetings of that Council, so far as I am aware. Certainly the Commander-in-Chief and the other military officers at the War Office have no such constitutional position in respect to the Army as the Naval Lords of the Admiralty have in respect to the Navy. I think the whole question is one which the Cabinet might very properly consider in the coming recess. There was one word used by the noble Marquess to which I should like to refer. He indicated, I think, that if a military or naval officer differed from the measures taken by the Parliamentary head of the Department he had the option of resigning. I am sorry that the noble Marquess made that remark. I hold that the position of these officers is, in respect to resignation, one of great delicacy and difficulty. If it is to be understood that whenever they differ on any matter of importance from the First Lord of the Admiralty or the Secretary of State for War they ought to resign, they will be placed in a very invidious position. It is possible, of course, that a case of vital importance may arise in which the military or naval officer may consider it to be his duty to resign rather than be a party to measures of which he does not approve; but that it should be considered in any case except a very extraordinary case to be the duty of one of these officers to resign his appointment if he does not agree with the measures which are carried out by the Government of the day is a doctrine with which I can in no way concur.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I have no intention of prolonging this discussion; I merely wish to make the precise intention of the allusion I made the other night perfectly clear. There is, I think, a little confusion in the matter. I did not for a moment intend to lay it down as a proposition that no Commander-in-Chief or other military expert, if he happens to be a Member of this House, should ever speak in the House on military matters, but I was directing my remarks entirely to the particular case before the House at the time. The matter originated in a statement by the noble Marquess with reference to a speech he made to the members of the Primrose League. There arose the question whether we were in a state of sufficient military preparation, looking to the conditions of our relations with foreign Powers. I do not mean by that the foreign Governments. It did seem to me that so grave a matter as that was one simply and solely for the Cabinet and the Government. They were bound to get the best advice, and they are the people to tell the nation on their responsibility that they are satisfied with the state of the defence of the country. I do not think that we ought to look at any outside opinion on that matter. That would tend, in my opinion, somewhat to weaken the responsibility of the Government, and in a matter of that kind it seems to me that it is of the highest importance that the responsibility should rest where alone it really belongs. We must suppose the Government have consulted the highest naval and military authorities. Just conceive what would be the effect if, when the First Lord of the Admiralty makes his annual statement as to the position of our Fleet and its position relatively to the fleets of other nations, the naval expert were to come afterwards and say, "I am very glad to be able to confirm what the First Lord has said on that subject." And suppose the naval expert does not come and say that. In that case it would be impossible that the inference should not be drawn that there was some difference between the experts and the Government. It seems to me that, in a matter of great importance like that, it is not at all advisable that you should invite that opinion. With regard to matters of detail, where very useful information can be given by one who is himself a member of the service, I do not suppose anyone would feel any jealousy, but I hold still the opinion, with regard to the subject we had under discussion the other night, that it is not desirable that we should have recourse to the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief and of naval experts to reassure us as to the position in which we are.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, as we have launched upon a constitutional discussion, it is inevitable, first, that we should all of us differ in opinion, and, secondly, I am afraid it is inevitable that we should incur the risk of some obscurity in the expression of our language on a subject so abstruse. But I am bound to say that I do not think the last two speakers have adequately represented what Lord Rosebery said. I understood Lord Rosebery's contention to be that the nation would be very much more satisfied if Lord Wolseley were to stand up in his place and say that he approved of the plans of Lord Lansdowne. Now it is obvious that if Lord Wolseley could be called upon to do that, he must do it with the admission that he was entitled, if he liked, to say he did not approve of the plans of Lord Lansdowne. I do not see how you possibly could have a perpetually assenting Commander-in-Chief an orator in this House. Lord Northbrook was able to produce from his long experience a most fascinating picture of perpetual agreement, but I doubt whether this is the experience of all heads of Departments either in the Admiralty or in the War Office, and still more do I doubt whether it is possible that a disagreement, when it arises, can be pushed in every case to the *ratio ultima* of resignation. No Government could be worked for a year on that principle; somebody must give way. I do not mean to say that it must always be the expert who gives way, because his chiefs may think it wiser to give way, but if there is a clash of hostile opinions no one can doubt that it must be the expert who gives way. If that is the case, it would be very imprudent to introduce the Commander-in-Chief in support, because if he is entitled to tell us when he does agree he must inevitably be entitled to tell us when he does not. I think there is a great deal of force in what Lord Rosebery said, but it was force of an abstract speculative kind. In that Utopia which he contemplates I suppose the head of the Army would always be a distinguished military man, and therefore not a partisan, and the head of the Navy also would be a distinguished naval man. It is the fact, I believe, that in every foreign country except our own the Ministry of War is in the hands of a military man, and not a partisan. But that is because the Constitution of this country differs essentially from every other Constitution. In this country the Government is conducted and the Departments are ruled by Parliament. It cannot be so unless those who are appointed are persons approved of by Parliament, and who have authority in Parliament; it cannot be so if you substitute for the ordinary Ministers of a Government distinguished experts either in naval or military science. I am not saying for a moment what in that speculative Utopia to which Lord Rosebery referred would be the best plan. I do not entirely disagree with the opinion which he parenthetically added that in many respects it might be much better if the Foreign Secretary was never a partisan; but these things are quite inconsistent with party Government in the Houses of Parliament.

LORD ROSEBERY: Hear, hear!

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: The Utopia may come, but until it comes we must be satisfied with such provisions as our ancestors have handed down, and make the best of them, and those provisions absolutely refuse to allow the military head or the naval head of the professions to come here and criticise their chiefs.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I wish only to say one word with reference to this discussion, which I think has been most interesting and fruitful. I would once more demur to what the Secretary of State for War has said; he appears to be incapable of understanding a plain proposition when it is laid down. He represents me as saying one thing, and the noble Marquess the Prime Minister represents me as saying another.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I quoted you.

*THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: You quoted one sentence from a series of sentences; that is most misleading.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I will read the whole of it——

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I think at this hour that would be most fatiguing, but I am willing to enter into correspondence with the noble Marquess—such correspondence as the penny post will allow—as to what my expressions mean. What I did say is this, and I am willing to say it till the day of doom, that in time of a great national crisis, when our armies have met with perpetual reverses —[Cries of "Oh!"]—well, constant reverses—[Renewed cries of "Oh!" and A NOBLE LORD: "Occasional."]—occasional, then; I am always being advised by the Treasury Bench—at a time of grave national danger—and I suppose that no one who passed the months of January and February in this country will easily forget those months—at such a time, I said, I thought it would have been reassuring in the past if we had had a statement from the noble Lord the Commander-in-Chief giving us confidence as regards our resources and as regards the military measures that the Government were introducing. The noble Marquess changes that into a statement which I expressly barred—that I wish to convert the Commander-in-Chief into an Under Secretary, who should come down and applaud the measures of his chief, like a chorus. That is not my meaning, but I do maintain that occasionally, in moments of crisis, it might not be inexpedient if the noble Viscount, who is a Member of this House, took part in the debates of this House to give us his guidance and experience. Of course we have been accustomed to that during the long career in office of the late Commander-in-Chief. The noble Marquess dexterously got rid of the late Commander-in-Chief by saying that he was a Prince of the Blood, and, therefore, was in a position so exceptional that he could form no precedent. But for forty-four years we have no other precedent to quote, and, therefore, if he gets rid of the Duke of Cambridge by that summary and convenient process, it is difficult to argue with him. As regards my Utopia, I agree with the noble Marquess that that is outside the regions of the debate, but I am afraid I disagree with him in thinking that it is ever likely to be realised.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I do not think I ever said it was.

INDIA—BENGAL UNCOVENANTED SERVICE PENSION FUND.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the proposed reduction of interest on the capital of the Bengal Uncovenanted Service Pension Fund; and to move for copies of any letters from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India on the subject in 1896 and 1899. I am exceedingly sorry to have to trouble your Lordships at this late period of the session, but, in my opinion, a grievous hardship has been inflicted by the Secretary of State for India upon a most deserving class of men—namely, the Uncovenanted servants of the Government of India. They are the men who do the best portion of the hardest work in the offices in India. They receive, most of them, very low salaries, and when they retire they are granted very moderate pensions. About sixty years ago a fund was formed for the widows and children of the Uncovenanted servants in Bengal. The Government encouraged it in every way, and assistance was given from the State to the extent of 6 per cent. interest on the capital. There were 1,700 subscribers to the fund, and everything went on smoothly till a year or so ago. The rates which the subscribers paid were considerably in excess of the actuarial death rate, and that, coupled with the 6 per cent. interest, enabled the fund to dispose of a considerable surplus year by year. That surplus was wisely used for the purpose of making an abatement on the sums paid by the subscribers, so that these deserving men, who had subscribed for many years for pensions for their widows or money for their children, were able, on leaving the service at the expiration of their term, to go home and live upon their small pensions, with a very small annual sum to pay to the fund, and very often none at all. This had been going on for many years, but in February last the Secretary of State decided to reduce the rate of interest from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent. He accompanied that resolution with an announcement that even 4 per cent. was not to be relied upon, and that the rate of interest might be still further reduced. Although fully warned beforehand what the result to the fund would be, he issued this order, and in his despatch there is not a single word of sympathy for the effect of the order upon the unfortunate subscribers to the fund. The reduction of 4 per cent. will, in the opinion of two of the best accountants of the day, prevent the fund from meeting its liabilities. In point of fact, it will kill the fund. Those who managed it took the course, in order to struggle on, of altering their rules so that the unfortunate men who have already subscribed the whole of the money required under the regulations of the fund to provide pensions for their widows are now called upon to pay the full amount of the subscription which they paid when they began their subscriptions. Now, my Lords, how is this working? because it is just as well to see what the actual cases are. I know of three cases. The first case is a man who for many years subscribed to the fund for three daughters. His subscription, according to the rules of the fund, had ceased. He is eighty years of age, and he is now called upon to pay the original rate of subscription, which it is impossible for him to do, and his daughters when he dies will be left without support. Another case is a man who subscribed to the fund for twenty-seven years. He has got a small pension. His subscription ceased three years ago, and now he is called upon to pay £30 a year, his original rate of subscription, and that unfortunate man will not be able to live in the small house he is now living in. Another case is a man who subscribed for many years for his wife, two sons, and three daughters. About three years ago his subscription ceased according to the laws of the fund. He has now been called upon to pay £75 a year, which it is altogether beyond his power to do. In short, this is the case of the fund now as contained in a letter written on the 10th July by the secretary—

> "Subscribers have in a large number of instances withdrawn their children from the fund. Subscribers, when called upon to pay subscriptions at the full fixed rates, have expressed their inability to do so. Applications for admission to the fund have almost entirely ceased."

So that your Lordships see that in point of fact the action of the Secretary of State has killed this fund, which was established sixty years ago, and put into conditions of very great hardship indeed the unfortunate members of the fund, who have subscribed for so many years. The whole correspondence has been published. I looked at the Papers to see if I could find what reason the Secretary of State could have, or what justification he could produce, for the action which he has taken, and I tell your Lordships that I was never more pained in my life than when I read that despatch of the Secretary of State, addressed to the Government of India. Will your Lordships believe that, in order to justify his action, the Secretary of State dug up an old letter, written by the Court of Directors about the year 1840, in which they said then that they could not guarantee continuing the 6 per cent. rate of interest on the fund? That is the justification of the Secretary of State for his action on the present occasion. He takes no notice of what has happened since that time. In the year 1849 the Court of Directors published a despatch, in which they praised the management of the fund, and declared that 6 per cent. interest on the capital should be paid, without one single word of reservation. Was not that quite enough to get rid of the reservation of 1840? Worse than that, in the years 1877 to 1883, when the noble Marquess opposite (the Marquess of Salisbury) was Secretary of State for India, when Lord Cranbrook was Secretary of State for India, when the Duke of Devonshire was Secretary of State for India, when my noble friend behind me (Lord Kimberley) was Secretary of State for India, a very long correspondence took place, and the Government of India said that it was necessary to put distinctly on record the exact position of the Government with respect to the fund, and the interest that they were to pay upon the fund, and how far it extended, and they declared that the interest to be paid upon the fund was what I described to your Lordships just now—namely, 6 per cent. on the capital representing the net liabilities of the fund, with a small reserve. I should have thought that if ever there was a contract between a Government and a body of that kind, this was a contract between the Secretary of State in Council and the Government of India and this fund. Now, my Lords, what have the Government of India done in this matter? How far have they committed themselves to this rate of interest? I hold that they have committed themselves to this rate of interest in a manner which it is impossible for them to escape, because they have actually issued orders in some parts of India that no Uncovenanted servant shall be promoted who does not belong to this fund, or some other fund of the same kind; and they have actually given orders that if an Uncovenanted servant leaves the service, without going through the whole course and taking a pension, to take another appointment, he is to refund to the Government certain sums of money in order to get the advantage of the rate of interest. My Lords, that is the condition of things now; and during the whole of that correspondence, from the year 1877 to the year 1883, in no one single Paper that has been printed in the collection which I have read since the assumption of the government of India by the Crown, is there one single word of warning to those who subscribed to this fund that there was a liability that the rate of interest should be reduced. If that liability had been openly stated, and people who were about to subscribe to the fund had been warned of that, is it likely that anyone would have subscribed to the fund at all?—because the main reason of people subscribing to the fund was the assistance they got from the Government by the exceptional rate of interest. The contrast between the manner in which these unfortunate Uncovenanted servants have been treated, and that in which other funds in which the Covenanted servants were interested have been treated, is rather painful, but I will not dwell upon it. I will only say, in conclusion, that I trust the noble Earl representing the India Office will be able to assure your Lordships that the Secretary of State for India is prepared to reconsider this matter, and that he will take into consideration the equity of the case, the hardship of the case, and that he will restore the fund to the position in which it stood before his unfortunate despatch; or do what was done in the case of the Covenanted Service Fund—let the Government take the whole fund over, let them deal with all those who have at present a claim upon the fund on certain fair conditions, and then let the Uncovenanted servants start a new fund for themselves. So far, my Lords, for my question to the noble Earl, to which I hope he will be able to give a satisfactory reply. Now as regards the despatches. The Secretary of State has acted in this case contrary to the opinion of the Government of India. That is admitted in one of his own despatches—that the Government of India when Lord Elgin was Viceroy said, as I think any person who looked at the matter from an equitable point of view would have said, that after this favour had been shown for fifty-seven years to this fund, the Government of India hoped that the Secretary of State would not interfere with the rate of interest. I should like to see that despatch produced, and also I should like to see the despatch which Lord Curzon's Government has written upon the same subject. I do not know what was in that despatch, because it is not mentioned, but I cannot see the slightest reason why these despatches should not be produced. This is a matter of business. The Government of India are properly the protectors of the Uncovenanted servants in India. They have a right to express their opinion to the Secretary of State if they think that these men are being treated unfairly, and I think I am justified in asking that those despatches from the Government of India should be laid on the Table of your Lordships' House.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty for copies of any letters from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the proposed reduction of interest on the capital of the Bengal Uncovenanted Service Pension Fund in 1896 and 1899."—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, the noble Earl, at the commencement of his remarks, apologised to your Lordships for bringing this matter before your notice at so late an hour of the evening, and at so late a period of the session. I have no complaint whatever to make against the noble Earl on either of those heads, but I must confess that I should have been glad if it had been possible for him to have given a little longer notice of his intention to bring the matter under the notice of the House, and for this reason: The Secretary of State for India has for some time past been in communication with the Government of India with a view to the reconsideration of the matter to which the noble Earl has referred. A telegram was addressed to the Viceroy on the 22nd June, and we were informed that the managers of the fund—who, your Lordships will understand, are the official representatives of the beneficiaries under the fund—were awaiting a report from their actuary, and were meanwhile preparing a case to lay before the Government of India. It was the intention of the Secretary of State to wait until that had been presented to the Government of India, to have learned the views of the Government of India upon it, and then to have formed his own conclusions thereon. But since the noble Earl has placed this notice on the Paper a communication has been made by two members of the Committee of the Uncovenanted Servants' Pension Fund in this country, and they have produced the actuary's report to which the noble Earl refers, and upon that report we learn that in their opinion—and I have no reason to doubt that their opinion is a sound and correct one—on the 6 per cent. basis the widows' branch of the fund would show a surplus of R.1,913,000, while on the 4 per cent. basis, to which it is proposed to reduce it, it would show a deficiency of R.355,763. (Of course, I am presuming in both cases that the contributions remain as they are at present.) In the children's branch the surplus on the 6 per cent. basis would be R.686,000, while on the 4 per cent. basis it would show a deficiency of R.1,040,000. Well, no doubt that is a very startling position as a result of the change in the percentage, and the Secretary of State is the last person in the world to withhold his sympathy from those who have done such work for the Empire in India as the members of the Uncovenanted Service, both in Bengal and in Bombay; and I cordially agree with the remarks that have fallen from the noble Earl as to the value of the services they have rendered. I am not able at present to say exactly what will be the ultimate decision of the Secretary of State, because he has to consult, first, the Government of India, and, secondly, his own Council in this country; but I may say this: that, while he certainly would adhere to the right to fix the rate of interest at whatever he thought was the proper rate for the time being, he would not wish to inflict a hardship upon individuals or upon the whole service by reducing unduly the rate of interest to be paid in cases of those who have already contributed towards the fund. But I think the noble Earl will agree with me that it is entirely within not only the right of the Secretary of State, but also the justice and the equity of those concerned, that so far as those who have not yet entered into the service—that is, the new entrants—he should fix the rate at whatever may appear to him to be right for the time being. That is the view which the Secretary of State takes; and when the Papers come home, and after careful consideration of the matter, the Secretary of State hopes he may see his way to leave those who are at present subscribers to the fund in the position in which they now are, and so avoid inflicting any hardship. I am sorry that I cannot comply with the request of the noble Earl to lay the Papers on the Table of the House. If he, next session, will repeat that motion, I may be able to give him a more favourable reply, but for the moment the matter is very far from being in a condition that I may call settled, and it would be, I think, unwise to lay the Papers in an incomplete condition upon the Table of your Lordships' House, and I would prefer when the matter is finally settled that the noble Earl should renew his application, when I hope to be able to comply with it.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Certainly after hearing my noble friend's statement I have been very glad indeed to hear the answer of the Under Secretary of State. I would merely press this point: that I hope no reliance will be placed upon some technical power which may be shown to have existed long ago, and not to have been used for a very long period of years, of reducing the rate of interest. I hope that no such technicality will be put in force against those who entered the fund at the time when it was determined to revise the rate of interest, for the very good reason that they had no notice of it. We must look in these matters, and we always have looked in these matters, not to the technical rights of the Government, but to treating with generosity those who are employed under it. I am sure that in India our servants, both Covenanted and Uncovenanted, deserve the greatest sympathy and generous treatment. It has always been the custom not to look merely at technical right, but to see that they do not suffer any serious injury of any kind at the hands of the Government. As regards those who joined the fund later, of course it is clearly absolutely within the power of the Secretary of State to fix whatever he thinks equitable and fair, and there will be complete notice to all who then enter the fund. I merely wished to say this, because I sympathise very much with what my noble friend has said, and I feel sure that it will not be the intention of the India authorities to treat in any way harshly people whose case deserves equitable and favourable consideration.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: After the very satisfactory answer that I have received from the Under Secretary of State, I shall not press for the Papers in this matter, because I think it is better that they should be presented, if at all, when the matter is settled. I understand the noble Earl to have informed your Lordships that the Secretary of State is prepared to take measures to provide that the present subscribers to the fund should not suffer by the alteration in the rate of interest. I quite agree with him that as regards those who have not joined the fund now it is perfectly open to the Secretary of State to make any arrangements he pleases in respect of the future.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*) (No. 229.)

PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION OF ARMS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Commons Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Seven of the clock, to Monday next, Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 3rd August, 1900.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ALEXANDRA PARK BILL.

BRAY AND ENNISKERRY RAILWAY BILL.

CHRISTCHURCH AND BOURNEMOUTH TRAMWAYS BILL.

COVENTRY CORPORATION BILL.

DEVONPORT CORPORATION BILL.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL.

HASTINGS CORPORATION BILL.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS (No. 1) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

METROPOLIS GAS (PREPAYMENT METER) BILL (CHANGED FROM "GAS LIGHT AND COKE, COMMERCIAL GAS, AND SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES BILL").

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL.

MID-KENT WATER BILL.

NEWRY, KEADY, AND TYNAN LIGHT RAILWAY BILL.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

PLYMOUTH, STONEHOUSE, AND DEVONPORT TRAMWAYS BILL.

ROCHDALE CORPORATION BILL.

SCARBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION BILL.

SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION BILL.

TAUNTON CORPORATION BILL.

TOTTENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to.

FRASER SETTLED CHATTELS BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That, in the case of the Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords]

Ordered, That, in the case of the Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

TRAMWAYS PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill,
Clontarf Urban District Council Bill,
London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill, without amendment.

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords],
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [Lords],
Caledonian Railway Bill [Lords],
Margate Corporation Bill [Lords],
Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill [Lords],
Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill [Lords],
Bournemouth Corporation Bill [Lords],
Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords],
Workington Railways and Docks Bill [Lords], without amendment.

PETITIONS.

IMBECILES (TRAINING INSTITUTIONS) BILL.

Petition from Bradford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL.

Petition from Bradford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF WOODLANDS.

Petition from Newcastle-in-Emlyn, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petition from Rochdale, against establishment; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Croydon; and Lincoln (two); to lie upon the Table.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Petition from Lichfield, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (MONMOUTHSHIRE) BILL.

Petition from Lincoln, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL BOARDS (WAGES).

Return [presented 2nd August] to be printed. [No. 334.]

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Return [presented 2nd August] to be printed. [No. 335.]

ARMY (MILITIA CANDIDATES).

Copy presented, of Regulations for the Competitive Examination of Militia Candidates for Commissions in the Army in September next [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CUSTOMS.

Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of Customs for the year ended 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd April; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 336.]

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 29th March; *Mr. Joseph A. Pease*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 337.]

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Return for the year ended 31st March, 1900, of the Army and Navy Officers permitted, under Rule 2 of the Regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Act, to hold Civil Employment of profit under Public Departments [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338.]

SHIPPING CASUALTIES (1898-9).

Copy presented, of Abstract of the Returns of Shipping Casualties which occurred on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of the United Kingdom from the 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899; and of the Returns of Shipping Casualties to British Vessels elsewhere than on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of the United Kingdom, and to Foreign Vessels on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of British Possessions Abroad, etc., with Charts and Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1900, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1900, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS).

Copy presented, of Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock-outs of 1899, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (STANDARD TIME RATES OF WAGES).

Copy presented, of Report on Standard Time Rates of Wages in the United Kingdom in 1900, with Comparative Tables [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE AND SHIPPING OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

Copy presented, of Return of Trade, Shipping, Railways, and Economic Condition generally of French Indo-China, Siam, Straits Settlements and Malay Federated States, and the British and Dutch Possessions in the East Indian Archipelago: a Series of Articles containing information collated from various sources, including the *Board of Trade Journal* [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SALMON AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales), for 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Fourteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors, for 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339.]

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.]

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of Sixty-second Annual Report of the Registrar General, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Return showing under County Boroughs and Administrative Counties for each Public Elementary School inspected in England and Wales; the name and denomination of School; the number of Scholars for whom accommodation was provided; the average number of Scholars in attendance; the Annual Grant paid; and particulars of School Income and Expenditure; for the year ended 31st August, 1899 (with Summaries) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Minute of the Board of Education, dated 31st July, 1900, modifying Article 101 (*g*) of the Day School Code, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Progress of the Ordnance Survey to the 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2497 and 2498 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (HEALTH).

Copy presented, of Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 342.]

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account presented, of Deposits in Naval Savings Banks, and the payments thereof and the interest thereon, etc., during the financial year 1898-9 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1900-1901).

Copy ordered, "of Tables relating to the Revenue and Expenditure for 1900–1901, according to the latest Estimates."—(*Mr Hanbury.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333.]

TEA AND COFFEE.

Copy of Statement ordered, "showing the Imports of Tea and Coffee into the principal Countries of Europe and into the United States, together with Statistical Tables relating thereto for recent years, as far as the particulars can be stated."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS).

Address for "Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, etc., entered into each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1899, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50.

"And, of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1899 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 357, of Session of 1899)."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE ON PEKING.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House who is to command the allied forces in their march upon Peking, and give any information regarding the advance. May I also ask, as a supplementary question, whether there is any truth in the statement that the advance of the allies on Peking has been delayed by the serious unpreparedness of the British contingent.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): As I told my hon. friend yesterday, we have no further information on the points raised in his original question. With regard to the supplementary question of which he gave me private notice, we certainly have no information of the advance of the allies being delayed by the dilatory preparations of the British contingent. On the contrary, our last information from General Gaselee, which I gave the House, was that he hoped shortly to advance, and anticipated the co-operation of the allies.

PROPOSED LOAN TO CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (York, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the assistance of Her Majesty's Government has been sought to enable Chang Chih-tung, the Wuchang Viceroy, to obtain a loan of 500,000 taels required for the military and other expenses of the Vice-royalty; and, if so, whether, in view of the protection afforded to British subjects by the troops of Chang Chih-tung, Her Majesty's Government will give the guarantee asked for.

MR. BRODRICK: We are not in possession of facts as to the purpose for which this loan is required and to which it may be applied, but we are making further inquiry. I am not in a position to make any statement.

NAVY—DRAFTS OF UNTRAINED MEN FOR SERVICE IN CHINA.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether it is usual for a sailor in the Royal Navy, on leaving the training ship as a boy for a man-of-war, to pass through the several gradations of ordinary seaman, trained man, able seaman, and subsequently to undergo a course of gunnery training in the school for that purpose; whether untrained men not above the rank of ordinary seamen have been drafted from the Channel Fleet for service in China; and, if so, how many; and will these untrained men be placed on active service on shore without any previous qualification for taking the field, or will any steps be taken that they should be fully trained and instructed in musketry before their employment in active service.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): I think the hon. Member has made a confusion between gunnery and musketry. All seamen entered as boys have naturally to pass through certain grades in the course of their service and receive the training prescribed for such grades. The course of gunnery referred to in the first part of the question must not be confused with instruction in musketry, in which all first-class boys are trained. No boys or men untrained in musketry would be drafted to ships on stations abroad. The men and boys sent to the China station have been drafted in the ordinary way.

INDIAN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what will be the composition of the force of the third Indian Brigade now placed under orders for China, and will it consist of British or native troops; will the expenses of this force also be borne by the Imperial Exchequer; and what steps will be forthwith taken to supply this further depletion of the defensive forces of India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The composition of the third Indian Brigade now under orders for China will be four native infantry regiments. The expenses of this force will be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. As the Reserve of the native Army was below the fixed establishment, I have authorised a temporary addition to it of 4,000 native infantry.

AUXILIARY FORCES—SERVICE IN CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state approximately the number of men who have joined the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteer forces since the invitation that was made to members of those forces to volunteer for service in

South Africa; whether, in view of the part played by the Militia and Volunteers on that occasion, and the excellence of their record in South Africa, the commanding officers of the various battalions will be ordered to parade their men to invite volunteers for service in rescuing the Legations in China; and whether the Yeomanry, Militiamen, and Volunteers now serving in South Africa are liable, under the terms of their engagement, to be sent to China for such service.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The number of men who have joined the Militia since 1st December last is about 28,000; with regard to the Yeomanry and Volunteers, although I know that large numbers have joined, I cannot give figures, because the War Office only receives complete Returns once a year. My noble friend, however, proposes to ask for more frequent Returns. There is no present intention of sending members of these forces to China; certainly no attempt will be made to send any there under the terms of their enlistment for South Africa.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Are the men in South Africa liable to be sent there?

*MR. WYNDHAM: No.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury under what headings will the expenses of the Royal Commission on South African Military Hospitals be included in the Estimates; and will details of the main items of the expenses connected with this Royal Commission under definite headings be furnished.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The expenses of the Royal Commission will be charged on the Vote for temporary Commissions. The answer to the second paragraph of the question is in the affirmative.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will an item for whitewash be included?

DOCUMENTS FOUND AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA SAID TO IMPLICATE M.P.'S.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether documents have been discovered during the search of the Government Offices at Pretoria, affecting certain Members of the House of Commons and other politicians who have taken a prominent part in the agitation in this country in favour of the Boers; whether there is any information which he can give to the House on the subject without detriment to the public interest; if such documents have been found, whether they will be laid before Parliament; and whether Her Majesty's Government are in possession of any correspondence between British Members of Parliament and Transvaal authorities; and, if so, whether it can be laid upon the Table.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper on the same subject:—

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any letters have been found at Pretoria from Members of this House of a compromising character; and if so, whether he has any information to give to the House upon this subject.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the correspondence discovered at Pretoria, among other papers of the Transvaal Government, which is alleged to be treasonable, and to involve Members of this House and other British subjects, will be laid upon the Table forthwith.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham. W.): Perhaps I may be allowed at the same time to answer all the questions on this subject. When the Boer Governments fled from Bloemfontein and Pretoria, they left behind them in the archives a mass of private correspondence. This correspondence has been under examination by the British authorities on the spot, and by the last two mails I have received instalments of it, but I am informed that there is more to come. The portion that I have seen is all previous to the outbreak of the war, and consists chiefly of letters passing between British subjects at the Cape and persons in the two Republics, but it includes copies of two letters purporting to have been written by an English M.P. Her Majesty's Government have also in their possession copies of letters and an extract of a letter purporting to have been written by two other M.P.'s. Two of them were dated just before the outbreak of war; the other is a request, couched in a form which is certainly open to criticism, for information respecting the administration of martial law. The most interesting feature of the South African correspondence is the general admission of substantial grievances, and of the necessity for reform. There are, however, some suggestions that President Kruger might make temporary concessions and wait for a reaction in this country. I observe that the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil speaks of the correspondence as treasonable. I am, of course, quite unable to give a legal opinion; but so far as my personal opinion is concerned, the letters ascribed to British subjects in this country are not treasonable, but they are not proper letters to be written by British subjects when Her Majesty's Government were engaged in difficult and important negotiations. I propose to send them in the first instance to the alleged writers, and to ask if they desire to offer any explanation. Her Majesty's Government will wait their reply before deciding on the question of publication.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, among these archives, copies of the Rhodes-Chamberlain (Hawksley) correspondence were found?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir; there is no such correspondence.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Oh, oh!

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There is no such correspondence—there never has been.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why don't you produce it?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There is nothing to produce.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY—COMPENSATION TO ENGLISH SETTLERS.

MR. HALSEY (Hertfordshire, Watford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it will be possible, in the final settlement in South Africa, to give favourable consideration to the case of those Englishmen, settled in the Orange River Colony, who have suffered imprisonment and the confiscation of the whole of their stock and goods, because they refused to take up arms against their fellow-countrymen in the war.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The question raises a very difficult point, on which we have to be particularly careful, in order not to create precedents which might hereafter be extremely inconvenient. Above all, we have to preserve a distinction between the cases of those who suffered by war in Her Majesty's possessions and those who suffered when resident in a foreign country to which they had voluntarily gone. At the same time, I may say personally that I have the greatest sympathy with those in both the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal who have suffered on account of their loyalty. The only answer I can give to the question is that the matter is under consideration, but no statement can at present be made as to the manner in which such cases will be dealt with or whether any compensation can be obtained.

ENTERIC FEVER CASES AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND KROONSTADT.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can now give the number of admissions for and the number of deaths from enteric fever at Bloemfontein for the weeks ending 8th, 15th, and 22nd June; and also if he can give the number of admissions for enteric fever and the number of deaths from that disease at Kroonstadt for the weeks ending 25th May, and 1st, 8th, and 15th June.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The figures are as follow:—

Bloemfontein.

Week ending	Admissions.	Deaths.
8th June ...	487	98
15th June ...	213	64
22nd June ...	221	52

Kroonstadt.

Week ending	Admissions.	Deaths.
25th May ...	6	—
1st June ...	83	12
8th June ...	18	18
15th June ...	66	11

TREATMENT OF INVALIDED CANADIANS AT SHORNCLIFFE CAMP.

Sir CAMERON GULL (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the treatment of certain members of the Canadian contingent, who had been invalided home, at Shorncliffe Camp from 1st to 8th June, during which time they were without any proper accommodation and rations; and will he state who was responsible for such treatment.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: I presume the hon. Member is referring to certain allegations which appeared in the newspapers at a time corresponding to the dates he gives. A telegram of inquiry was sent to Shorncliffe on the subject, and the following answers were received from the officer commanding the Provisional Battalion, to which the Canadians are attached:—

(1) By telegraph, on 12th June—

"No grounds for any complaints; Canadians here are very angry at reports in papers, and came to me yesterday and asked for permission to write to contradict them, which, of course, by the regulations, I could not give.—Kelly."

(2) By letter, 13th June—

"The Brigade-Major, Shorncliffe.

"With reference to the inquiries of the Adjutant-General as to the housing, feeding, and granting of furloughs to non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Canadian Regiment and to certain paragraphs in newspapers stating that they were not being well treated exactly the same as other soldiers in the battalion.

"All who wish to go on furlough have had one granted them. In one case the man returned in two or three days, having spent his money, and will consequently be in debt for the next two months. The non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Canadian Regiment were much annoyed at the paragraphs in certain papers which stated they were not well treated; and the senior asked to see me, and said they were quite satisfied and asked for permission to write to the newspapers to contradict the reports about them.

(Signed) "C. H. Kelly, Colonel
Commanding Provisional Battalion."

"Shorncliffe, 13th June, 1900."

The General Officer Commanding, Shorncliffe, adds:—

"I fully bear out the statements and opinions of Colonel Kelly. I not so very long ago personally saw and conversed with some of the men and they gave me the impression of men who were quite contented with their position and surroundings.

(Signed) "H. Hallam Parr, Major-General, Commanding
South Eastern District.

"Shorncliffe, 13th June, 1900."

Sir CAMERON GULL: May I ask the Under Secretary whether he has received a statement sent to him, not founded on any newspaper report, but written by one of the men themselves, detailing exactly the ill-treatment they have experienced. If he has not received it will he let me send him a copy of it?

*Mr. WYNDHAM: I do not think the testimony of one man would outweigh the general testimony of the others. I did not give one paragraph of Colonel Kelly's letter, because it reflected on the newspaper press of this country, but in that paragraph Colonel Kelly said that the Canadians had told him that there was one grumbler amongst them to whom they attributed all the paragraphs.

Sir CAMERON GULL: Is the hon. Gentleman aware it was stated in that letter that——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot enter into details.

Sir CAMERON GULL: I will put a further question on the subject.

PURCHASES OF WARLIKE STORES ABROAD.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any and what kind of warlike stores were purchased abroad for the purposes of the campaign in South Africa; and what is the total estimated sum paid or to be paid for such purchases up to 31st December, 1899.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: Certain purchases of warlike stores have been made abroad, but these bear a very small proportion to the purchases made at home. For example, we have purchased—

	At Home.	India.	Abroad.
(*a*) Harness and saddlery,	25,000 sets ... ... and 62,000 sets (mule)	—	7,000 sets.
(*b*) Drab serge,	200,000 (more now).	—	50,000
(*c*) Boots,	240,000	...160,000	—

It would be against the public interest to publish an exhaustive statement of such purchases at the present moment, and I must ask the hon. Member not to press his question.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Will the hon. Gentleman answer the last paragraph on Monday?

*MR. WYNDHAM: If hon. Members can defer their questions till Tuesday, that will enable the officials at the War Office to have the Bank Holiday.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Is it a fact that large contracts have been concluded with Hungarian firms for the supply of foreign flour, and will the hon. Gentleman endeavour to give all such orders possible to the English flour-milling trade?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Not forgetting Sheffield.

CASUALTY STATISTICS.

SIR CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that in the official table of casualties since the beginning of the war in South Africa up to and including 28th July, the total losses are reported as 36,559 officers and men, and that this number includes 1,044 officers and 24,058 men, a total of 25,102, sent home as invalids, it can be stated in these Returns in future what number of officers and men sent home as invalids have died or have recovered, or are still invalids, in order to give an accurate return of the actual losses due to the war.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. This information will in future, so far as possible, be given in the weekly statement of casualties. It is hoped that the figures can be prepared in time for inclusion in next week's table.

LADYSMITH PIGEON POST.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the pigeon post so useful in the siege of Ladysmith was organised by the War Office or by private enterprise; whether his attention has been called to a letter offering to organise such a service, received from Mr. A. Hirst by the War Office, but which was not answered, and whether the service was afterwards accepted by Sir George White without orders from the War Office; and whether there is any intention on the part of the War Office to organise a service of carrier pigeon communication from the north of Europe towards the British coast.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The pigeon post established at Ladysmith was organised, under the authority of the General Officer commanding, by Messrs. Hirst and Wright, to both of whom the success which attended the working of the system was largely due. The pigeon post was made use of and supervised by the Intelligence Department during the siege. No letter from Mr. Hirst offering to organise a carrier pigeon system can be traced in the War Office. A training establishment for homing pigeons is about to be established at Aldershot.

FIELD BATTERIES AT ALDERSHOT.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state what is the establishment of the new field batteries now stationed at Aldershot, and what is their actual strength in horses and guns.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. and gallant Member probably refers to the batteries whose formation was begun on the 28th July. I have no detailed information of their strength, but I understand that they have about one-third of their establishment.

MAJOR RASCH: Does the hon. Gentleman suggest that the guns are ready?

*MR. WYNDHAM: You can hardly expect that, when the formation of the batteries was only begun four or five days ago.

COLOUR-SERGEANTS' PENSIONS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether colour sergeants, on the completion of twenty-one years service, become entitled to a pension of 2s. 6d. a day for life; whether it is in the power of a commanding officer to refuse to recommend for discharge men on the completion of the term of twenty-one years, and to compel them after they have earned pensions to serve for the small sum which constitutes the difference between the pay and the pension; and on what grounds can a man be compelled to prolong his service in the Army on the completion of the term during which he engaged to serve and after he has earned his retiring pension.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: In reply to the first paragraph the man is, subject to certain conditions as to the quality of the service, entitled to the pension. During war or when the Reserves are called out a soldier may be detained with the colours for a period not exceeding twelve months beyond the date of expiration of his term of service.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MILITIA ON SALISBURY PLAIN.

Lieutenant-Colonel PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the huts at Bulford Camp have been ordered to be ready by 1st November to hold the Militia at present under canvas there, and whether it is intended to keep them under canvas until then, bearing in mind that the weather is severe on Salisbury Plain; and whether, seeing that these huts cannot possibly be finished by the contractor, although he is receiving the assistance of the Engineer Militia, by 1st November, it is intended to keep the Militia under canvas during the winter until they are ready; and if not, where it is proposed to accommodate them; and, as more huts are still to be built by the winter, can he state where it is proposed to accommodate the troops until they are ready, also whether the huts in course of erection at Bulford Camp will be solidly built on proper foundations, and what provision will be made for hospital accommodation at Bulford Camp.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The huts in course of erection at Bulford are for the field artillery, and will, it is hoped, be completed by 30th September. The question of huts for the Militia is a complicated one, into which I am not prepared to go in any detail. But I can assure the hon. Member that it is not the intention of the Government to keep the Militia in tents after the camping season is over, nor to house them in insufficient or insanitary buildings.

Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): Is it within the knowledge of the War Office that there is any ground for the allegation that these huts cannot possibly be finished by the contractor by 1st November?

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The first half of the huts will be completed long before, but I cannot undertake to say whether the second half will be. As I have said, the question is a complicated one and depends on the movements of the Regular forces as well as of the Militia, but the Government have taken such steps as will prevent any inconvenience arising from overlapping.

SHEFFIELD CITY POLICE AND RIFLE PRACTICE.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has yet heard whether the War Office will accede to the request of the City Council of Sheffield, on the recommendation of the Watch Committee, that rifles be lent and practice ammunition be issued for the use of the City Police Force, and their preparation to augment the national forces in the event of invasion.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool): I understand that the War Office are not prepared to grant special facilities to members of police forces over and above those afforded to members of rifle clubs affiliated to the National Rifle Association under the scheme which has recently come into operation. There does not appear to be anything to prevent members of police forces availing themselves of this scheme.

AMMUNITION HOISTS ON SHIPS OF WAR.

Sir EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the ammunition hoists on board nearly all the ships in the Navy are hand hoists, while those of foreign navies have in addition electrical hoists; if so, can he state the reason for our ships not being provided with electrical hoists.

Mr. GOSCHEN: The ammunition hoists in the British Navy are generally hydraulic for heavy guns, and hand for medium and light guns, electrical hoists being fitted only in a few ships. Foreign navies have adopted electrical hoists in many cases. The advantages and disadvantages of the two systems, and the conditions under which they should each be used, depend on a variety of circumstances which are too numerous to be dealt with in reply to a question; but as a general principle it is considered that it is not wise to introduce complicated machinery, involving periodical repairs and additional expenditure of fuel, when the work can be done equally well by hand.

STEAM COAL CONTRACTS.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he is aware that inconvenience is caused to those tendering by invitation to the Admiralty for the supply of steam coal by the delay in notifying them whether their tenders have been accepted or otherwise; and if he can in future arrange to obviate the delay.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): The inconvenience which may be caused to firms tendering by delay is fully recognised, but the question of the allocation of the orders requires careful consideration. Tenders are always dealt with as speedily as possible.

NEW PATTERN 12-IN. GUNS—DELAYED DELIVERY.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he can explain the circumstances under which, as stated in the Report of the Committee of Public Accounts on the Navy, out of a batch of six new pattern 12-inch guns, on which considerable sums have been paid as instalments, only one, and that eight months in arrear and defective, had been accepted.

MR. GOSCHEN: The whole question referred to by the right hon. Baronet is still under consideration, and until it is decided what action is to be taken, it is not desirable to make any further statement or explanation. I may add that, so far, no inconvenience to the service has been caused by the delay in question.

ASHANTI—NATIVE RISING—CAUSES.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has ascertained the cause of the rising of the natives of Ashanti.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No; and it will not be possible to form a definite opinion as to the causes of the rising until further information can be obtained when order has been restored.

COCOA BUTTER IMPORT DUTIES.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the amount collected from the duty on the importation of cocoa butter since its imposition to 31st July, 1900, and the amount it produced between 1st August, 1899, and 31st July, 1900.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The amount of revenue collected from the duty on the importation of cocoa butter from the 1st August, 1899, to 31st July, 1900, was £3,231, and for the whole period since the imposition of the duty (7th August, 1896, to 31st July, 1900), was £14,033.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH COAL.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state to what countries the increased export of British coal has mainly gone, and, in particular, what governments or countries have increased their purchases of coal suitable for naval use; and if such export has increased the cost of coal for the Royal Navy or reduced its supply.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The increase in the exports of coal, coke, and fuel from the United Kingdom during the first six months of this year over the exports in the first six months of 1899 was 1,073,000 tons. The increase, however, was not general among the various countries to which the coal, etc., was sent, there having been decreases in the exports to some countries amounting in the aggregate to 970,000 tons, and increases to others to the extent of 2,043,000 tons. The principal increases were to Germany, 405,000 tons; Holland, 451,000 tons; and France, 810,000 tons. I am informed that the total exports of coal from Wales in the six months January to June, 1900, show a decrease of more than 400,000 tons compared with the same period of 1899. The increase in the cost of fuel for the Royal Navy, therefore, cannot be attributed to increased export of the kind required.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if it is practicable to determine at the time of the shipment the purposes for which coal exported abroad is to be used; and if he can state approximately the proportion of coal exported foreign which is sent to British possessions, to British subjects resident abroad, and to coal depôts in foreign countries for the supply of British-owned steamers. I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the decreases in the exports foreign of coal from Cardiff and Newport in June and for the first six months of this year respectively, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1899. I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that no steam navigation or other coal was shipped from Cardiff to Calais during the first six months of this year, and that no coal of any kind was cleared from any South Wales port to Calais during that period with the exception of one cargo of 740 tons from Newport in June last; and if he will cause inquiries to be made as to shipments of this kind.

MR. RITCHIE: I am unable to say for what purposes coal exported to foreign countries is to be used, nor what proportion is to be utilised by British subjects. I will obtain and communicate to the hon. Gentleman information as to the amount of coal exported to British possessions, and as to the decrease in exports from Cardiff and Newport in the first six months of this year as compared with those of the corresponding period of 1899. The Customs records do not enable me to say what quantities of coal are exported to particular foreign ports.

SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience resulting from the absence of arrangements for a gold assay at the Sheffield Assay Office; and whether he will promote or assist whatever legislative or other measure may be required for the purpose of making it unnecessary for gold articles manufactured at Sheffield to be sent to other towns in order that they may be assayed and hall-marked.

MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir; my attention had not been called to this matter. Silver articles may be assayed in Sheffield, and I should have thought the manufacture of articles made of gold was comparatively very limited in that city. I cannot, of course, promise any legislation, but I can assure my right hon. friend that I shall be happy to give my best consideration to any evidence produced to prove that Sheffield is placed at a disadvantage in this respect.

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he can state the totals of the voluntary subscriptions to the Church schools for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900 respectively.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The figures for the statistical years ending 31st August were:—1897, £630,169; 1898, £583,613; 1899, £600,286. The returns for 1900 are not yet complete.

VACCINATED CALVES.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board how many calves are kept by the Department as reservoirs of lymph for vaccination purposes; how many of the animals so used are sold annually as food for the people; and where the sales take place.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The average number of calves now vaccinated weekly at Lamb's Conduit Street is seventeen. All the calves from which lymph has been collected are within the next few days slaughtered under veterinary supervision, and the calves passed on veterinary authority as sound are sold in the Central Meat Market, Smithfield.

VACCINATION OFFICERS AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—"BRAMBLE v. LOWE."

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the

Local Government Board whether, seeing that the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, based on the case of Bramble *v.* Lowe, by which he has justified the action of the Board in treating vaccination officers as servants of the Board and not as subject to the directions of the guardians, referred only to prosecutions under Section 31 of the Act of 1867, the opinion of the Law Officers has been taken on the extension of this practice of ousting the power of the guardians to direct the proceedings of their vaccination officer to prosecutions under Section 29 of the Act of 1867; and whether he will give the opinions of the Law Officers as a Parliamentary Paper.

MR. CHAPLIN: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that the Local Government Board have treated the vaccination officers as their servants. As the Board explained in their circular of the 21st October, 1898, the power and the duty of taking proceedings are vested in the vaccination officer under the Vaccination Acts passed prior to the Vaccination Act, 1898, without any Order of the Board or direction from the guardians. The opinions which the Law Officers have given to this effect referred to prosecutions both under Section 29 and Section 31 of the Vaccination Act, 1867; but the hon. Member must be aware that it would be entirely opposed to the established practice to publish these opinions.

VACCINATION FEES AT WIGAN.

MR. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the minimum fees fixed by the Vaccination Order, 1898, press heavily on the local ratepayers at Wigan and other places; and that there was paid in the town of Wigan for the year ending Lady Day, 1898, £516 9s. 5d.; for the year 1899, £433 5s.; for the year 1900, £1,541 7s. 7d.; and whether, in view of these charges, he will consider the whole matter with a view of placing them on a more reasonable basis.

MR. CHAPLIN: We have not got the figures for 1900 which show the increase in expenditure at Wigan, but the establishment of a system of domiciliary vaccination has necessarily added to the cost of vaccination, as the duties of the officers have in consequence been very considerably increased. Moreover, the amount of the fees to some extent depends on the number of successful vaccinations, and I am glad to say that this number has been largely augmented since the Vaccination Act, 1898, came into operation. In the Wigan Union there was an increase of about 60 per cent. in the number of successful vaccinations in 1899 as compared with 1898. I have, however, received other representations on this matter, and I am, as I always have been, willing to consider whether an alteration should be made in the minimum fees prescribed by the Vaccination Order; but I think we should have some further experience before determining whether this course ought to be adopted.

POPLAR GUARDIANS—TREATMENT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Poplar Board of Guardians propose to spend about £150,000 in building a pauper children's village at Hutton, and that the Poor Law Schools Committee recommend in their Report that pauper children should not be kept as a class apart and aggregated in large numbers, and whether the proposed departure from the recommendation of the Poor Law Schools Committee has been sanctioned; and, if not, what steps he intends to take to induce the Poplar Board of Guardians to adopt the alternative methods of dealing with the children recommended by the Poor Law Schools Committee.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Poplar Guardians propose to provide new accommodation at Hutton to replace the "barrack" schools at Forest Gate. Plans and estimates have not yet been submitted to the Local Government Board, and I am not in a position to state definitely what the new buildings will consist of or what the cost will be. I understand, however, that the girls and the boys under ten will be provided for in cottage homes, and the older boys in blocks. The Local Government Board have expressed their willingness to assent to the purchase of the site, and the details of the scheme will be carefully considered when the plans are submitted.

CARMARTHEN PRISON MATRON'S PENSION.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the question in dispute between the Local Government Board and the Treasury, in reference to the pension of Miss Bryant, the late matron of Her Majesty's prison, Carmarthen, has yet been settled; and, if so, whether he will state the result; and whether he is aware of the fact that, pending the settlement of the question, Miss Bryant is inadequately provided for.

MR. CHAPLIN: The decision has not yet been given in the case referred to in the question, but I hope that this will be done in the course of the next few days.

RATING OF CEMETERIES.

MR. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the increasing losses imposed upon local authorities having within their districts cemeteries belonging to other local authorities owing to the exemption of such cemeteries from re-assessment; and whether, in the next session of Parliament, he will propose that Section 15 of the Burial Act of 1855, which provides for such exemption from re-assessment, should be repealed.

MR. CHAPLIN: I have no doubt that the result of the enactment referred to in the question is that lands used as burial grounds are in certain cases assessed at a lower rate than would otherwise be the case, and that where this is so some loss occurs to local authorities. I cannot give any undertaking about legislation next session.

SEWAGE POLLUTION OF THE THAMES.

MR. STEPHENS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that during the year 1899 thirty-eight sewage overflows discharged sewage into the Thames on its northern side within the London area; and, seeing that such discharges of sewage are liable to take place whenever the rainfall exceeds one-tenth of an inch, and that the existing obligations of law compel local authorities to admit the combined drainage of sewage and water to their sewers, whether, in the next session of Parliament, it is his intention to introduce a Bill to enable the local authorities to keep separate, if they desire to do so, the sewage and the water drainage of their districts.

MR. CHAPLIN: No, Sir, my attention has not been called to the facts referred to, and I have no information to show how far they are as suggested in the first paragraph of the question. With regard to the second paragraph, local authorities have the power to provide, and they have in some instances already provided, separate systems for sewage and water drainage. The further legislation suggested on the subject would, it appears, raise questions of considerable importance which would involve heavy expense. As I stated in reply to the last question, I am not in a position to give any pledge with regard to legislation next session.

VISCOUNT SANDON (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a recurrence of pollution of the River Thames, near the sewage pumping stations at Halfway Reach and Barking Reach; and whether he will cause the necessary steps to be taken to obtain an abatement of the nuisance as a precaution against danger to health of those engaged upon the river.

MR. CHAPLIN: I have made inquiry on this subject, and I am informed that it is the recent hot weather which is mainly responsible for the nuisance complained of in the part of the river referred to in the question. I learn from the London County Council that they are fully intent on further improving the condition of the river, and that they have undertaken several large works with that object. The Local Government Board have no power to take or to cause any steps to be taken in the matter.

RELIGIOUS MINISTRATIONS IN WORKHOUSES.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in the Thorne Union workhouse the services are taken alternately by the vicar of Thorne and by some Nonconformist ministers; whether the majority of these inmates of this workhouse are entered as members of the Church of England; whether in the Beverley Union workhouse there are any Church of England services on Sundays;

whether in both these cases the guardians have declined to appoint chaplains, as required by the regulations of the Local Government Board; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy this state of things.

MR. CHAPLIN: I find on inquiry that the answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative. There has been no paid chaplain at the Thorne workhouse since 1879, or at the Beverley workhouse since 1881, and hitherto we have received no complaint on the subject. In reply to the last paragraph, I have directed a communication to be addressed in the first instance to the guardians in each case, pointing out the duty which rests upon them as regards services on Sundays, and asking for their explanations as to why that duty has not been performed.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): What will the right hon. Gentleman do if the explanation of the board of guardians is not satisfactory?

MR. CHAPLIN: I am not prepared to answer that.

OVERCROWDING ON RAILWAYS.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether railway companies who have issued tickets to passengers for particular trains are bound to provide seats for those passengers in the respective classes of carriages for which they have paid; and what remedy there is against railway companies for the overcrowding of carriages.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative, subject to this qualification, that the contract of carriage may be made conditional upon there being room in the train. Most railway companies have a bye-law with this object as to tickets issued at intermediate stations. Railway companies are responsible for any overcrowding of carriages due to default on their part or on the part of their officials. It was said by Lord Blackburn in the House of Lords in the case of the Metropolitan Railways Company *v.* Jackson (reported in the L.R. for 1878, 3 App. Cas. p. 193) that a passenger is entitled to be carried in a carriage with reasonable accommodation, and that the company ought to take reasonable steps to prevent passengers getting into carriages already full. The remedy is by action, in which, as it was pointed out in the case already referred to, the prosecutor may recover for any damage sustained by him in consequence of overcrowding due to default on the part of the company or their servants.

NATIONAL GALLERY — PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works what progress has been made in acquiring property needed for the isolation of the National Gallery.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The purchase of property, with a view to creating a clear space not less than 40ft. wide, to the west of the National Gallery, has been agreed to, in principle, by the Government and the vendors; and negotiations are now in progress as to the settlement of the price to be paid. The purchase should be shortly completed.

INSPECTOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

LORD BALCARRES: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he has yet appointed an Inspector of Ancient Monuments in succession to the late General Pitt-Rivers.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: It has been thought advisable not to make any appointment immediately, so that some indication may first be gathered of the probable effect of this year's legislation for the extension of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act. The appointment is vested by statute in the Treasury.

SWINE FEVER—REMOVAL REGULATIONS.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that the present Swine Fever (Movement) Orders, whereby a licence is required to be obtained for the transmission of fat pigs for slaughter, are causing not only inconvenience but also loss to farmers in Somerset; and whether he will withdraw these Orders.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS (for Mr. LONG): My right hon. friend asks me to say that he is well aware of and much regrets the inconvenience and even loss which is occasioned by the Order to which the hon. Member refers; but inasmuch as no fewer than thirty-two outbreaks of swine fever occurred in the infected area during June, it became urgently necessary to take steps to prevent the conveyance of infection to other districts. The position, which has somewhat improved since the Order was made, will be constantly kept in view, and the Order revoked at the earliest possible moment consistently with safety.

LONDON TELEGRAPHISTS—RISK ALLOWANCES.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether counter clerks and telegraphists in the East Central and Metropolitan District Offices received additional risk allowance whilst performing overtime, both before and after the Tweedmouth Committee; and whether the Secretary to the Post Office has now withdrawn this right; and, if so, whether the Postmaster General will direct that all officers entitled to receive risk allowance shall receive this allowance whilst in the performance of overtime, in accordance with the past practice of the Department.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): It appears that a misunderstanding has arisen with regard to the payment of risk allowances at certain district offices, and arrangements are now being made to adjust such cases as are found to come within the reservation made by the Tweedmouth Committee.

LUGGAGE CHARGES ON SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that passengers between London and Scotland whose luggage is paid for and booked through to stations in Scotland are surcharged on reaching Scotland according to the higher scale for excess luggage for that portion of the journey that is performed on the Scottish lines; and whether he will urge on the Scottish railway companies the necessity for the removal of this inconvenience.

MR. RITCHIE: The point raised by the hon. Member shall be brought to the attention of the Scottish companies. It is most desirable that there should be uniformity of practice among all the companies with regard to this matter.

IRELAND—CASTLEBLAYNEY RAILWAY STORES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Monaghan, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the attention of the directors of the Great Northern Railway Company has been called by the traders of Castleblayney and neighbourhood to the injury done to meal, floor, bran, and other feeding stuffs which is delivered in the stores of that company owing to the swarm of rats that infest the place; and if he will take any steps to compel this railway company to protect the property of the traders who have to frequent their line from the rats.

MR. RITCHIE: I will draw the attention of the company to the substance of the hon. Member's question.

CARRICKMACROSS WORKHOUSE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Monaghan, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of tramps have been frequenting the workhouse of Carrickmacross during the past years, and that members of this class attempted to burn that workhouse recently; whether the inspector to the Local Government Board of Carrickmacross district has reported upon this tramps nuisance, and suggested any remedy, or will he ask a report from him on this subject; and whether, seeing that casuals to workhouses do not work, but walk from workhouse to workhouse, which are built so near to each other that it is recreation for them, he will consider the advisability of compulsory amalgamation of workhouses, which would be an inducement to make able bodied tramps work if they had longer journeys from one workhouse to another.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have already stated that it is probable a large number of the admissions to the Carrickmacross workhouse belonged to the tramp class. Three persons of this class were recently sent for trial to the assizes charged with an attempt to set fire to the dormitory of the workhouse. As respects the second paragraph, I have nothing to add to the statement made by me on the 26th July. If the guardians desire to confer with the Local Government Board inspector on the subject, he will be instructed to attend before them at any time they may appoint. With reference to the third paragraph, I do not think, having regard to the requirements of the deserving sick and poor, that it would be advisable to close workhouses merely for the purpose of imposing on tramps longer journeys in travelling from one workhouse to another. If amalgamation on general grounds is desirable, and can be carried out without hardship to the sick and destitute, the Board will at all times be glad to further the wishes of the local authorities in the matter.

DONEGAL NATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—SCHOOL REQUISITES.

MR. T. D. SULLIVAN (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been directed to a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Donegal National Teachers' Association, held at Stranorlar on Saturday, 28th July, wherein complaint is made that when it is considered necessary to introduce industrial subjects into schools, adequate provision is not made for supplying the necessary apparatus from some definite source, as too many inroads are made on the incomes of the teachers in supplying the children free for the most part with school requisites, and in keeping the schools furnished with maps and other appliances; and whether the necessary requisites on the Commissioners' school list under heading "For Use in Schools only and not for Sale to Pupils" should be supplied gratis to National schools on the recommendation of the inspector, as the teachers in many cases have to provide these at their own expense.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The resolution referred to does not appear to have been received. The question of making an equipment grant as an aid to local expenditure, with a view to encourage manual instruction under the new scheme, is receiving consideration by the Commissioners. The proposal to provide schools with the ordinary apparatus for collective teaching free of cost is not one that can, at present, be favourably entertained.

WATERFORD REGISTER — DISFRANCHISEMENT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF POOR RATES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that 2,500 voters have been struck off the voters' list in Waterford City for non-payment of poor rates since October last because the rate notices were not served until about April, and that the people concerned did not know that they should be paid before 1st July; whether he can say who is responsible in this matter; and whether he will take steps to save the 2,500 people concerned from being disfranchised through no fault of their own.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed that some 2,700 persons have been omitted from the voters' lists prepared by the town clerk for the borough of Waterford, by reason of non-payment of rates. The rate notices referred to in the question were posted in April as stated, and the notices calling attention to the necessity for payment of the rates required by Section 30 of the Registration Act, 1850, were duly kept published from the 5th June to 1st July. All statutory requirements were, I understand, complied with. There are no steps which it is competent to the Government to take in the matter.

KNOCKADUFF (CO. MAYO) ELECTORAL DIVISION—RATE ON OCCUPIERS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Mayo, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the Knockaduff electoral division of Belmullet union, county Mayo, under the adjustment order of the Irish Local Government Board, a rate has been struck of £1 4s. in the £, which, under the provisions of the Irish Local Government Act, must be borne exclusively by the occupiers; is he aware that the rate so struck is made up of an accumulation of arrears extending over a number of years, and that more than two-thirds were the portion originally due by the landlords; and whether, having regard to the fact that since this rate was struck a large amount of the arrears have been collected and credited to the union at large, instead of the division of Knockaduff, which is still liable for the entire rate, and in view of the poverty of the district, he will use his influence with the Local Government Board to grant the request of a memorial forwarded by the ratepayers of the Knockaduff electoral division, who are eighty-three in number, with rents varying from £2 to £4 per annum, to relieve the occupiers of a greater liability for the payment of this rate than that to which they were originally subject, and to permit of the payment of this reduced sum by instalments.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is not a fact that a rate of £1 4s. in the £ has been struck in the electoral division mentioned. The rate amounts to 9s. 11d. in the £ on land and 12s. 3d. in the £ on other hereditaments; but it must be remembered that no rate was struck in the county Mayo for the second half of the last financial year owing to the state of the accounts of the county council, and the whole rate was carried forward into the current year's estimate, which accordingly covered a period of eighteen months. The current rate includes 5s. 10d. in the £ under the adjustment order of the Board for the clearing off of old liabilities due by the division, but this special rate will be confined to the present levy alone, and the next half-year's rate will therefore be 4s. 1d. on land and 6s. 5d. on other hereditaments, and this, as already pointed out, is one-half of an eighteen months rate. For years past insufficient rates were struck by the guardians for the division, and they failed to complete the collection of such rates; it was accordingly inevitable that a balancing up of the account would find the division heavily in debt. The Board have received the memorial referred to, and have informed the county council, in reference to a proposal made by them on the subject, that they will offer no objection to the amount collected before the appointed day being credited to the division. There is no power to comply with the suggestion that the rate, or portion of it, be paid by instalments.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these people are under the impression that they are being taxed twice over for the same matter?

COLERAINE GUARDIANS—PURCHASES OF MEDICINES.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Coleraine Board of Guardians received any recoupment in respect of medicines purchased by them during the period immediately prior to and ending on 30th September, 1899; on what date did the Local Government Board approve of the appointment by the guardians of their analyst; was any recoupment made in respect of medicines purchased during the said period, but used before the appointment of the analyst, and was any recoupment made for the said period to the guardians in respect of any medicines which the analyst for any reason was unable to certify; and will he state whether it is within the power of the Local Government Board in exceptional circumstances, such as the late appointment of an analyst, to dispense with his certificate of analysis in a proper case.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Recoupment in respect of the full amount claimed as the cost of medicines, etc., for the half-year ended 30th September, 1899, was allowed to the board of guardians of the Coleraine Union. The analyst was appointed on the 26th August, 1899, and made his analysis of the drugs in use within the half-year, thereby enabling the guardians to obtain recoupment in respect of all medicines supplied during that period. The Local Government Board are not aware that the analyst was unable to certify in respect of any medicines obtained during the half-year. Samples of all the medicines supplied are taken and submitted to the analyst, and his certificates in the case of Coleraine Union were satisfactory. It is not within the power of the Board to sanction recoupment until the guardians obtain a certificate from an analyst recognised by the Board, as required by Article 36, paragraph 4, of the Board's dispensary rules, dated 24th February, 1899.

IRISH POSTAL COMPLAINTS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Monaghan, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that inconvenience is caused to the people of Doagh, Corlea, Greaghlone, and neighbouring townlands, owing to the letters for that district being sent viâ Shercock, instead of from Carrickmacross as heretofore; whether he is aware that the route from Carrickmacross to Greaghlone was established upon the guarantee of Mr. Francis Lambe, which cost him £6 per annum for some years; whether he will restore the delivery of letters direct from Carrickmacross to Greaghlone which worked so well and conveniently to the people of the neighbourhood; whether he is aware that the new messenger from the Shercock route refused to deliver letters to Mr. Patrick Murray Doagh and Mr. Owen Lambe, and if he can state what steps he intends to take in reference to this postman; and whether he will refund the money paid by Mr. F. Lambe in establishing this postman's route from Carrickmacross to Greaghlone.

MR. HANBURY: It appears that some inconvenience has been caused to the inhabitants of the townlands referred to by the hon. Member, owing to letters for the district being sent for a time viâ Shercock, instead of from Carrickmacross as formerly. The post from Carrickmacross was extended to Greaghlone in February, 1891, under a guarantee of £5 4s. 4d. a year from Mr. Francis Lambe, but the guarantee was dispensed with in June, 1892, when the service became self-supporting. The delivery of letters direct from Carrickmacross to Greaghlone has now been restored. Some letters for Mr. Patrick Murray and Mr. Owen Lambe were not sent out for delivery, because arrangements for extending the free delivery to their houses had not then been completed; but a delivery on three days a week has now been established. The Postmaster General does not see any reason for refunding to Mr. F. Lambe the money paid by him under guarantee.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Monaghan, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that confusion exists in the district of Doagh and Greaghlone owing to the changes made in the delivery of letters; whether he is aware that no postman admits these and several other townlands as being in his radius; whether he is aware that a letter was posted on 16th July in Middlesbrough for Mr. Patrick Connors, Doagh, Carrickmacross, which letter if sent by the usual route viâ Carrickmacross and Greaghlone would have been delivered on 17th July, but was not delivered until 24th July, and that several letters posted in Carrickmacross for Mr. Owen Lambe, Doagh, did not reach him for almost a week, although posted within a couple of miles of his house; and whether he will put a stop to the present confusion in letter delivery by arranging for a messenger direct to Greaghlone from Carrickmacross, as was the case since 1892.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General regrets that there has been some confusion in the district of Doagh and Greaghlone, near Carrickmacross, owing to a misunderstanding as to the new arrangements for delivering letters. It appears that the letters referred to by the hon. Member were sent to a local post office without proper instructions having been given for their delivery, and thus sustained delay. Serious notice will be taken of this irregularity, and instructions have now been given for the direct service from Carrickmacross to Greaghlone to be resumed.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the Prevention of Corruption Bill, introduced by the Lord Chief Justice, has passed through the House of Lords, and that the principle of the Bill has received the approval of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, of the Congress of the Co-operative Societies, and of numerous chambers of trade, trade associations, and trade protection societies throughout the country, Her Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of themselves introducing legislation, at an early opportunity, for the purpose of dealing with the evils against which the Bill is directed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to the right hon. Gentleman, I am bound to say that this Bill comes before us with very high credentials, but I can hardly commit myself to any promise of Government legislation without further consideration than I have been able to give to the matter.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what was the number of Private Bills relating to localities in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, respectively, introduced during the last session of Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am informed that the figures are—for England 213, for Scotland 34, for Ireland 14, and for Wales 30.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury in what order he proposes to take the business on Monday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The first business will be the remaining stages of the Colonial Stock Bill and of the War Loan Bill; then we shall take the Lords Amendments, and then the Appropriation Bill.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I wish to call the attention of the First Lord of the Treasury to the order in which the Votes to be taken on Report of Supply have been placed on the Paper. I am aware that the Leader of the Opposition asked for some further opportunity for discussion on the Colonial Office Vote, and that is the Vote which is first put down on the Paper. It will, however, be more in accordance with the usage of the House if the Votes which were "guillotined" in Committee are taken first on the Report stage. I asked the Leader of the Opposition whether he still desired that this Vote should be put down first, and my right hon. friend told me that he had no desire that it should be so.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must confine himself to something in the nature of a question.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I think the right hon. Gentleman understands my question. I believe the order could be changed even now on a motion by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member speaks not only for himself, but also, I understand, for the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I never do anything without the approval of my Leader.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As the Leader of the Opposition asked that the Colonial Office Vote should be put first, and I formally assented, I do not see how I can put it back in the absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Stirling Burghs. Cannot some right hon. Gentleman opposite move it?

MR. LABOUCHERE: We cannot. It must be done by the representative of the Government.

MR. BRYCE: The natural course would have been to have followed the usual practice of taking Votes which have not been discussed. An hon. Member informs me that on the previous evening the Leader of the Opposition said that he supposed the course which would be taken by the Government would be to put down the so-called guillotined Votes first.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course I am bound to accept that as the view of the Leader of the Opposition. It comes upon me as a great surprise, because it will be remembered that he complained of the short discussion on the Colonial Office Vote, and asked me whether I could not give another opportunity for discussing it. Of course if he has now altered his opinion, and if he thinks the discussion on last Wednesday was sufficient, I should be glad to meet the wishes of the hon. Member. I gather the right hon. Gentleman is commissioned indirectly to state that.

MR. BRYCE: I have not the permission of the Leader of the Opposition to express his opinion. I only expressed my own view, and stated what I have been told by an hon. Member.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is rather a perplexing position in which we find ourselves in the unexpected absence of the Leader of the Opposition. The best thing is to let the Colonial Office Vote be taken *sub silentio*, and then we might get on to the other Votes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Speaking only for myself——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member has no right to speak for himself or for anybody else, as there is no question before the House. May I point out that the first Order of the Day, "Supply (25th July) Report," cannot be put into another place on the Paper except by the general consent of the House on a motion by the Government? To postpone it to another day would be contrary to the Sessional Order, which requires all outstanding Report of Supply to be disposed of to-day. Nothing can be done except to call it on, and then it may be disposed of as quickly as the House thinks fit.

ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, That this House, at its rising, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill,
Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill,
Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man) Bill,
Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey) Bill,
Expiring Laws Continuance Bill,
Public Works Loans Bill, without amendment.

Executors (Scotland) Bill,
Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) Bill, with an Amendment.

Elementary Education Bill,
Companies Bill,
Naval Reserve Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—
Reserve Forces Bill [Lords],
Volunteers Bill [Lords],
Prohibition of Exportation of Arms Bill [Lords], without amendment.

COMPANIES BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 324.]

NEW BILLS.

TIED HOUSES.

Bill for the abolition of Tied Houses, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Sir John Brunner, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Mr. Herbert Lewis, and Mr. Hazell.

TIED HOUSES BILL.

"For the abolition of Tied Houses," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 321.]

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND).

Bill to improve the system of registration of writs relating to heritable property in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Anstruther.

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To improve the system of registration of writs relating to heritable property in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 322.]

CONVOCATIONS.

Bill to declare the law in regard to the reform of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and to make provision for constituting Houses of Laymen in connection therewith; and for empowering the said Convocations and Houses of Laymen to sit together, ordered to be brought in by Sir Richard Jebb, Sir William Anson, Viscount Cranborne, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Lucas-Shadwell.

CONVOCATIONS BILL.

"To declare the law in regard to the reform of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and to make provision for constituting Houses of Laymen in connection therewith; and for empowering the said Convocations and Houses of Laymen to sit together," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 323.]

SUPPLY [25TH JULY].

Resolution reported:—

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £32,250, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I rise for the purpose of calling the attention of the House to the subject of the administration of justice in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, and I do so believing that the question is one which touches very nearly the reputation of this country. It therefore deserves the very careful consideration of Parliament. I hope I may be able to obtain from the Secretary for the Colonies some explanation and some assurance of a satisfactory character with respect to the matter I am now about to raise. I crave the indulgence of the House while I refer briefly to the debate which I raised last session on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.* On that occasion I challenged not only the conduct of Governor Sir F. Cardew in regard to the administration of affairs generally in the Protectorate, but I challenged also the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary. Let me refer briefly to some of the facts on which I base my present remarks. In addition to our possession of the Crown Colony we have within quite recent years assumed a Protectorate over a very wide stretch of territory lying in the immediate hinterland of the colony. I take it that that Protectorate was assumed in order to check the encroachments of the French, which threatened to interfere with the trade of the colony. The French have no doubt proved, at any rate so far as West Africa is concerned, very unneighbourly neighbours. But the assumption of the Protectorate led to several very important and grave results. In the first place it necessitated a large increase of the Frontier police; that entailed, of course, an increased expenditure, which in its turn necessitated the finding of new means for augmenting the revenues of the colony, which had already begun to show signs of serious decadence. In order to recoup the increased cost of the Frontier police force and certain reduplications of offices which had been instituted, Sir F. Cardew resolved on the imposition of a hut tax. I am not going into the merits of that; I only say that the imposition of the hut tax was followed almost immediately by a rising of the natives, accompanied by bootless massacre and the shedding of much innocent blood. It paralysed the entire trade of the colony, and brought about a serious reduction of revenue. It has been freely said that the real cause of the rising was the imposition of the hut tax and the brutal mode in which it was collected. These accusations weighed so seriously with the right hon. Gentleman that he did a thing for which he deserves the highest credit —he sent the best man he could find to Sierra Leone as a Royal Commission to inquire into the truth of these allegations —he sent, in fact, Sir David Chalmers, a man of known ability, who had spent many years in the service of his Queen in that part of Africa. He, after a laborious inquiry, reported that the rising and its bloody sequelæ were, in point of fact, brought about by the imposition of the hut tax and the mode in which it was collected. In the course of the debate to which I have referred I commented on the fact that the right hon. Gentleman had had the Report of Sir David Chalmers in his hands since January, 1899, and that it was not until five months later—just before the Colonial Vote was taken—that it was presented to Members. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the Report of Sir David Chalmers contained grave accusations against Sir Frederick Cardew, and that he did not think it right and proper that these accusations should be published until Sir Frederick Cardew had an opportunity of making his reply. I find no fault with that statement. It seemed only fair that Sir Frederick Cardew should have an opportunity of making any statement he could in answer to the findings of Sir David Chalmers. But I confess that it was unfortunate that in his reply to me the right hon. Gentleman should have used the phrase "accusations" in connection with the Report of Sir David Chalmers. Sir David Chalmers made no accusations; he made a very laborious and minute inquiry in his capacity as Royal Commissioner, as a judicial officer, and he simply arrived at certain conclusions which were based upon the evidence brought before him. But the words used by the right hon. Gentleman certainly conveyed an imputation upon the impartiality of Sir David Chalmers that has naturally given very great pain to his relatives who have survived that distinguished public servant, and to whom his memory is dear. I do not know that I could better bring that home to the House than by reading a short passage from a memoir which has been recently written by Lady Chalmers in vindication of her husband's memory. This is what she says—

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxvi., page 100.

> "Sir David Chalmers died on 5th August. Continuous work for several months in Sierra Leone at the worst season of the year, together with a return to this climate in the depth of winter, and the exertion of preparing his Report, without allowing himself a day for rest or relaxation, proved too great a tax on his constitution, already tried by the strain of many years of strenuous tropical service. He lived long enough to know how apparently fruitlessly he had sacrificed his own ease and comfort, but was spared the knowledge of the painful reflection cast on his fairness and justice—qualities which he valued above all others, and which his whole previous official record had exemplified in a marked degree. On behalf of those whom he left, it is not too much to say that the depreciation of his work and the reflection cast on his memory served to deepen the sorrow of a great bereavement."

These are very simple words, but it seems to me that they are not without pathos. I cannot help thinking myself that the right hon. Gentleman used the words which he did use in the heat of reply, and without meaning to cast any imputation on the impartiality of Sir David Chalmers, and I am strengthened in that view by the fact that the very things which were referred to by the right hon. Gentleman as accusations brought by Sir David Chalmers were, in point of fact, part of the instructions given to Sir David Chalmers by the right hon. Gentleman himself in the reference made by him. If I am right in that conjecture, I can only express the hope that the right hon. Gentleman will take the opportunity of saying something which will assuage the pain that he has caused, and which was not at all deserved.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): What were the words I used? Will the hon. Gentleman kindly repeat the exact words?

MR. HEDDERWICK: If the right hon. Gentleman will refer to *Hansard* he will find there that he used the words, "Sir David Chalmers in his Report had made accusations against public officials." The only public officials in question were Sir Frederick Cardew and possibly the District Commissioners. The word "accusations" was not a proper word to use with reference to the findings of a judicial officer who was only coming to conclusions with reference to the evidence offered to him. Before I go further, there is one point on which we ought to have some explanation. Sir David Chalmers founded his Report upon a mass of evidence. The volume of that evidence fills over 600 pages, and these minutes of evidence were in the hands of the Colonial Secretary at the same time as the Report. But that evidence was not furnished to the Members of this House until September, when Parliament was no longer in session, and, therefore, it was impossible for any hon. Member to form any sound judgment as to whether the Report of Sir David Chalmers or the reply of Sir Frederick Cardew was well founded or not. I think that was an injustice to the work done by Sir David Chalmers, and it is a matter on which we are entitled to ask for some explanation from the right hon. Gentleman. I pass from these matters—which, after all, are in a sense personal, although I do not know that it is necessary for me to apologise for them; and it seems to me that justice should be rendered to individuals as well as to nations, and that if charges are made which reflect on an officer who has been appointed by a Minister of State, these charges should either be explained or defended or withdrawn—I pass from these matters gladly to that which is the object which I had more immediately in view, namely, to a consideration of the mode in which justice is now being administered under the sovereignty of Her Majesty the Queen in this Protectorate, and to the powers and qualifications of the persons who are appointed to dispense that justice. To those who cherish the idea, and in some respects justly cherish the idea, that wherever the arms or the power of this country go they carry with them a strict and impartial law, and the strict and impartial administration of justice, I confess that the reading of that evidence compiled so laboriously by Sir David Chalmers is nothing but shocking. What do we find? In this vast Protectorate immediately behind the colony of Sierra Leone, and over which are scattered some millions of natives, justice is administered by District Commissioners, who have powers of life and death, and from whose decision there is no appeal, who have not the most rudimentary notion of the laws they are called upon to administer. Well, these are grave charges to make, but I think a short reference to the evidence compiled by Sir David Chalmers will more than substantiate them. I may, with the indulgence of the House, read some extracts from that evidence. Captain Sharpe, who is by way of being a very superior District Commissioner in the Hinterland, a man to whom is committed the power of life and death, says—

> "I never knew there was imprisonment without hard labour. I never heard it questioned by the Attorney General. I fancy [he says] I can remember the expression somewhere 'with or without hard labour.'"

Then the Royal Commissioner asks him with regard to some points in the Protectorate Ordinances. The Royal Commissioner says—

> "Then I take it that your view of the Ordinance is that, notwithstanding the provision of Section 48, which enacts that 'if any person liable to pay tax refuses to pay, levy on his goods shall follow; nevertheless, by giving an order to the same person that he shall pay, an offence can be raised up which is punishable under Section 67'?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: I read this Ordinance that where a man refuses to pay I can take my choice of these two sections.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: I may draw your attention to the fact that Section 68 does not deal with the subject of tax, whereas Section 48 particularly deals with payment of tax. I am speaking of the chiefs.
>
> "Captain SHARPE: I should read it that verbal refusing was resisting.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Section 68 does not bear any relation to the payment of tax?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: I should say that in asking for the tax I was exercising my duty, and by refusing to pay he was resisting me in the exercise of my duty.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Then I would like to be clear upon the point with regard to these five chiefs: Was each one of them convicted of the three offences that are named in the sheet, namely—(1) Inciting others by threats to defy the law (offence under Section 67); (2) Refusing to collect the hut tax due (offence under Section 68); (3) Overawing by force a public officer in the execution of his duty (Section 68)?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: I can only go by the sheet. I cannot trust my memory. It is apparently so by the sheet.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Upon these convictions the chiefs were apprehended and sent to Freetown?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: Yes."

Then the Royal Commissioner raises another point. He says—

> "Then I show you this conviction that you sent down as warrant for imprisoning them; this is not in your handwriting?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: No; it is my clerk's.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Just read it. You see that this is not the same charge as on the sheet?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: I did not understand it was to be the verbatim charge.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER; You see, on comparing this statement of offence with the other, they are different?
>
> "Captain SHARPE: It is certainly different verbally.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: I should say more; it is quite a different offence.
>
> "Captain SHARPE: Would it not have the same meaning legally?"

Well, that is one instance. I take a shorter passage from the evidence of Sub-Inspector Crowther. He says—

> "I was present when Captain Sharpe made the order for the arrest of the five chiefs to be sent to Freetown.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Was any charge made against Bokari Bamp to which he was asked to plead?
>
> "Sub-Inspector CROWTHER: Captain Sharpe simply told him, 'You are charged with refusing to pay the hut tax.'
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Was any charge made against Santigi Kearch?
>
> "Sub-Inspector CROWTHER: He was charged with Ansinnani Bali with aiding the chief not to pay.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER; Was Bokari Bamp asked for his defence?
>
> "Sub-Inspector CROWTHER: I do not remember that he was asked. . . . Captain Sharpe asked Bokari Bamp after he had charged them, 'What have you to say?' He said, 'I do not say I will not pay, I will say I want to consult the other chiefs.' Then he asked the four others, and they said they did not aid him not to pay.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Thereupon did anything more take place, or were they at once sent to the canoe?

> "Sub-Inspector CROWTHER: They were sent to the canoe.
>
> "The ROYAL COMMISSIONER: Nothing more took place?
>
> "Sub-Inspector CROWTHER: No, they were sent to the boat in handcuffs with a police escort."

I pass to another—Captain Moore. In answer to the question of the Royal Commissioner, "Do you remember whether you took part in the hearing of the charge against Pa Membana on 21st January?" he said—

> "I tried him and sentenced him—a year's hard labour and thirty-six lashes. I was sorry the Governor would not allow me to inflict the lashes."

Pa Membana's offence was that he refused to pay the hut tax on the ground that he had no power, being subordinate to Bai Kompah, and that the people were too poor. I have drawn attention to these three cases to show how incompetent the District Commissioners are to deal with the law, because in the case of Captain Moore you have a man who has actually treated these independent chiefs as if they were felons, causing them to undergo the lash, a thing he has no right or power to do, instead of treating them as civil offenders on whose goods a levy might have been made. There is still another matter in this connection which has in my opinion a serious bearing on the whole matter, and that is that these judicial officers are at the same time captains and chiefs of the Frontier police force. What is the character of this Frontier police force? It is composed entirely of natives drawn from Sierra Leone—that is from the Protectorate—and in many cases they have been the slaves of those very chiefs, and these very men who are charged with the protection of the Protectorate and the care of property within it have committed all sorts of crimes from the plundering of natives and brutally illtreating them to the ravishment of women. These offences are not committed against ordinary natives only, but against the wives and daughters of chiefs who are laid hold of. I ask the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary if he imagines this state of affairs can go on long without serious consequences. How do we know how much this treatment has had to do with the rising in Ashanti, which is a neighbouring country? The right hon. Gentleman has admitted to-day that he does not know the cause of the rising, and it is not time yet to inquire; but he knows perfectly well that news travels quickly from native to native across vast districts, and I can imagine—it may be wrong, and the one case may have nothing to do with the other—I can imagine that nothing would be more likely to induce the natives in the neighbouring country to seize a convenient opportunity to rise than the treatment which independent chiefs received from the District Commissioners, and the fact that they were drum-majored by the Frontier police composed largely of men who had a short time before been the servants and slaves of those very chiefs. These are matters, it may be said, the Colonial Secretary could not possibly know, and personally I admit that recently his whole time must have been largely aborbed in matters of much greater importance and of much more absorbing interest; but it must be remembered that these things have been going on for some years. Indeed, before the South African matter became acute at all, these things were taking place, and it must be recollected that the Report of Sir David Chalmers and the evidence on which I have founded all the statements I have made were in the hands of the Colonial Secretary at the beginning of 1899. There is also this to be said, that the Colonial Secretary has received a memorandum not only from the Traders' Association, but also from the Chamber of Commerce in Sierra Leone, and a minute from the Bar Association in Sierra Leone. Nearly all these memoranda agree in certain recommendations. There are at least four matters on which they agree. One is that the public mind is dissatisfied, and I cannot wonder at it when the administration of justice is thus conducted in the Protectorate. The second is that the power of capital punishment, vested in these District Commissioners, should be abolished. The third is that there should be the right of appeal to the Supreme Court. I think I have already said that there is no right of appeal from the District Commissioners at present, and that the only check even in the case of the capital penalty is that before being carried out the sentence must be submitted to the governor, who is Sir Frederick Cardew. The fourth matter on which they are agreed is that natives should be permitted to employ the services of counsel or solicitor at least in all criminal or *quasi*-criminal cases. To these recommendations there should be added that no officer of the Frontier police force should be a District Commissioner, and secondly that no one should be appointed to the office of Commissioner who has not at least some knowledge of the law which he is called upon to administer. These recommendations I very earnestly commend to the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. I think they are worthy of his attention, and it is in regard to them that I seek, if possible, to obtain some assurance that at least they will receive his serious consideration.

MR. URE (Linlithgowshire): I fully admit that the province of criticising and forming a judgment upon the administration of Sierra Leone is one of no ordinary difficulty. The subject is extremely complicated and embarrassing. On the one hand you have the careful and exhaustive Report of Sir David Chalmers, a man whose competency no one questions, a man whom the right hon. Gentleman himself selected on account of his judiciousness, long experience, and knowledge, and a man, further, who approached the consideration of the question with no sort of bias on the one side or on the other. He was a retired official, and was not in any way responsible for the imposition of the tax or the method of administration adopted in the collection of it. His impartiality and competency were beyond all question, and I do not understand that the right hon. Gentleman, either in his speech at this time last year, or in the letter of 7th July, 1899, cast any sort of reflection on the impartiality and ability of Sir David Chalmers. I understand that the right hon. Gentleman, if he used the word "accusation," which appears in the *Hansard* report, did not for a moment mean to cast any reflection whatever on the perfect impartiality, ability, and painstaking anxiety with which the Commissioner had discharged his task. It was certainly an unusual step to take—I do not say unprecedented—to pass by the main recommendations of the Royal Commissioner, which were, in the first place, to cease altogether the collection of the tax, and in the second place, to introduce radical changes in the Protectorate. The right hon. Gentleman was confronted with this difficulty: that, so far as I can judge, there was no practical alternative for him as a means of raising the revenue necessary for the purpose of keeping down the slave trade and slave raiding. If slave raiding was to be effectually controlled and checked in the Protectorate the Frontier police was undoubtedly necessary, and required to be paid. The natural requirements of the Protectorate demanded the imposition of some tax, and so far as I can judge from the Report of Sir David Chalmers, the alternative method he suggested would not have been adequate to raise the necessary fund to pay the Frontier police. On the other hand, the right hon. Gentleman had before him the very detailed observations of the administrator of the Protectorate—an officer, no doubt, who approached the consideration of the question with a certain bias. I think the right hon. Gentleman will concede that that was so. But at the same time I will frankly say that I have read with care his observations on the Report, and that they appear to me to be couched in language of studied moderation. I do not hesitate to say that his criticism is not reckless or ill-considered, but careful, minute, and acute criticism of the conclusions arrived at by Sir David Chalmers. No doubt in questions of this kind much depends upon disputed questions of fact. Great value is always attached to the opinion of the man who has seen and heard the witnesses give their evidence. The right hon. Gentleman will, I think, agree with me that in so far as the question before him depended upon the determination of disputed facts, he was bound to place greater reliance on the conclusion arrived at by the Royal Commissioner than that of Sir Frederick Cardew, who, I think, was not examined as a witness himself, and was not present while the evidence was being taken. But while I make that observation, I am not one of those who attach undue importance—some, I think, do—to the opinion of the man who has seen and heard the witnesses, especially where the solution of the question which the Secretary of State had to determine depended to a large extent upon matter of opinion and inference drawn from the facts, and not upon the determination whether this fact was proved or that fact not proved; because as I read both the Report and observations, the divergence between Sir Frederick Cardew and Sir David Chalmers turned on the conclusions to be deduced from documents. I did not understand the right hon. Gentleman to come to the conclusion that Sir David Chalmers' findings in fact had been successfully impeached, but rather the inference he drew was that they had been successfully challenged by Sir Frederick Cardew. The right hon. Gentleman frankly admitted that this was a question on which two honest and impartial men might well hold entirely different opinions, and that being so, I cannot myself conceive that any administrator placed in the position the right hon. Gentleman is in to-day could well have come to a different conclusion from that at which he arrived, even although in coming to that conclusion he had to pass by some of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioner he himself had appointed. The criticisms that have been passed by my hon. friend who preceded me in this debate upon the competency and the character of the resident District Commissioners are certainly grave and serious. But, after all, I suppose the Colonial Department, like other Departments, must depend upon the implements placed in its hands for carrying out the work it has to do, and you cannot expect to get men thoroughly versed in difficult legal problems, and perfect in the exhibition of tact and discretion in the performance of undoubtedly delicate duties, unless indeed you pay salaries which would involve another tax far beyond the ability of the natives to pay. In short, the right hon. Gentleman must do the best he can with his District Commissioners, and it would be difficult, I think, for him with Sir Frederick Cardew's opinion before him with regard to these men, considering that he has had large experience, to discard the recommendation of that gentleman with regard to the duties to be imposed on the District Commissioners. Here is what is said by Sir Frederick Cardew in his observations on the Royal Commissioner's Report—

> "With respect to the District Commissioners all are English gentlemen and men of honour; they all possess considerable intelligence, education, and experience, and have unrivalled opportunities, next to the missionaries, of studying the natives from all points of view; they are in close touch with them, are constantly hearing their palavers and disputes, and besides get much information of their customs and habits through the police and native officials."

No Department in Downing Street can set aside an opinion like that from the man on the spot. We must do our best with the materials at hand, and, with the recommendations the right hon. Gentleman has made cautioning these District Commissioners to be as careful and discreet in the administration as possible, the hut tax must go on and be collected; and one is glad to see that recent experience since the rebellion was quelled has tended to show that the hut tax has not been met with so much disfavour by the natives as was at first anticipated. Now that they understand it better, and the motives for its collection, and also the advantages that will accrue to them from the imposition of the tax for the payment of the Frontier police, who, at all events, preserve the peace, and who have caused inter-tribal feuds to cease, they will pay with as much alacrity as any man ever paid a direct tax imposed on him. I have risen mainly for the purpose of inviting the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to certain strictures which are passed on his letter of 7th July, 1899, casting reflection, I think, on the impartiality and competency, the care and anxiety, with which the Royal Commissioner did his work. The right hon. Gentleman, I think, perhaps used the expression "accusation" without intending thereby to suggest any serious imputation on Sir David Chalmers.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It is a mere statement of fact.

MR. URE: I hope that in what I am now going to say the right hon. Gentleman will not see any desire to suggest that he or the Colonial Department really intended seriously to question Sir David Chalmers' impartiality and competency, but I readily admit that it was impossible for the right hon. Gentleman or even probably for those in his Department to master the immense mass of evidence we have before us, extending to close on 700 pages. I really do not think that it would have benefited the right hon. Gentleman in considering the question if he had perused that enormous mass of evidence. I have perused a considerable part of it. I think part of it is very unintelligible, and other portions have no direct relation to the important questions raised and referred to in the strictures which have been made, and which, as I think, are not sustained either by Sir David Chalmers' Report or the evidence which accompanied it. The Colonial Office, I take it, rather fell into error from failure to minutely examine the evidence and the appendices than from any desire to impute want of care and competency on the part of the Royal Commissioner. The right hon. Gentleman will find on pages 166 and 167 of the Blue-book the strictures to which I refer. I think they are four in number. I will take them in their order as they occur. In the first place, dealing with the important conclusion come to by Sir David Chalmers that "the arrests and imprisonments" of those who refused to pay the hut tax "were not legal under the law of the Protectorate Ordinance or any other law under which the District Commissioner was authorised to act," the right hon. Gentleman says that Sir David Chalmers in expressing that view was differing from the acting Attorney General. In his letter the right hon. Gentleman says—

> "As to the arrests, Sir F. Cardew has pointed out that the acting Attorney General advised that they were legal, and that Sir D. Chalmers, while quoting certain sections of the Ordinance, has omitted to quote those on which the acting Attorney General relied."

This seems a small matter, but at the same time, when you consider that the Report was made by a trained lawyer, a man who was naturally to be expected to investigate with care and minuteness the legal aspects of the question with which he was called upon to deal, it does suggest some lack of care on the part of Sir David Chalmers, if not a lack of impartiality, when the right hon. Gentleman says he omitted to quote those sections on which the Attorney General relied. If you turn to Sir David Chalmers' Report, page 30, you will find that immediately after expressing his own opinion in paragraph 71, to which the right hon. Gentleman refers, he goes on to state the opinion of the Attorney General. When I turn to one of the appendices I find quoted in full the opinion of the Attorney General, and following that opinion there is a verbatim citation of the sections of the Ordinance on which the Attorney General relies; so that it was not right to say that Sir David Chalmers omitted to quote the sections. I am quite sure the right hon. Gentleman will see that it was scarcely a fair representation to say that this most painstaking man had omitted to quote the sections upon which an opposite legal opinion to his own was based. I do not for a moment seek to offer any opinion whether Sir David Chalmers or the Attorney General was right. I am inclined certainly to the view that Sir David Chalmers was right. Whether that be so or not, I think I have shown that the Royal Commissioner was in this respect, as I think in all other respects, scrupulously fair to his opponent. The next stricture passed on the Report is a graver one. The right hon. Gentleman in his letter, page 167, says—

> "A very grave charge is suggested against Captain Moore, in paragraph 107 of the Report. The Royal Commissioner refers to a statement by a native witness that this officer killed a youth carrying a cutlass, although he adds that he does not lay stress on it; but when he examined Captain Moore, which was done after the native evidence referred to had been given, he put no question to him on the subject, and did not even mention that evidence to him of which Captain Moore himself at that time had no knowledge. I regret that Sir David Chalmers omitted to give this officer the opportunity which he has since had of denying the charge and thereby satisfactorily exculpating himself from a most serious imputation. It will be seen on reference to Sir F. Cardew's observations (paragraph 48), that Captain Moore indignantly repudiates the charges and states that the evidence was absolutely untrue in every particular."

There are two statements in that paragraph which, I think, cast a very grave reflection on Sir David Chalmers in connection with the performance of his duty. In the first place it is said that he suggests a very grave charge against Captain Moore, and in the second place it is said he did not give Captain Moore an opportunity of repudiating the charge. I answer this stricture thus. In the first place I say that the Royal Commissioner suggested no charge against Captain Moore, but, on the contrary, stated distinctly that although the charge had been made he did not believe it. If the right hon. Gentleman will refer to Sir David Chalmers' Report, page 45, he will find words to bear out what I have said. Dealing with the question of the enforcement of the tax Sir David Chalmers says—

> "A youth, carrying a cutlass or sword, was met by a party of police, who told him to give up his weapon, and tried to take it from him. He did not surrender it, and was endeavouring to turn away, when two of the police fired, and he was killed. The matter is related

> very circumstantially by Yan Kuba, Headman of Mabobo, where the occurrence took place, who had no conceivable motive for inventing the statement; also by Kanray, who, Yan Kuba says, was present as an eye-witness, and is corroborated by Boroh Cabendah. Murano Carimo also made a corroborative statement, but I do not consider his statement that the shot was fired by Captain Moore correct, which is not in accordance with other evidence, and I do not lay stress on it. On the whole of the evidence, although, of course, it has not been tested as judicial evidence would be, I am satisfied the youth was killed by the police, and in the manner stated."

I submit it was not fair in the letter of 7th July to say that Sir David Chalmers suggested a grave charge against Captain Moore when he distinctly says in his report—

> "I do not consider his statement that the shot was fired by Captain Moore was correct, which is not in accordance with our evidence.

That is a matter of which those who are jealous of the reputation of Sir David Chalmers very justly complain. I understand that that is one of the charges which induced the right hon. Gentleman to send the Report to Sir Frederick Cardew for his observations. I make no complaint of that, but what I do say is that Sir David Chalmers made no accusation against Captain Moore. I readily admit that the evidence with regard to the shooting of the lad was extremely unsatisfactory, and was subjected to very acute criticism—with the whole of which I entirely agree—by Sir Frederick Cardew. But when that evidence was taken Sir David Chalmers did not believe the charge. If that is so, of course the second stricture passed—that he did not give Captain Moore an opportunity of repudiating the charge—falls to the ground. Here again the letter somewhat errs. At page 471 of the notes of the evidence the right hon. Gentleman will find that Captain Moore was asked this very question—

> "Do you remember a man being shot at Makaia?—*A*. No. The only occasion on which a shot was fired was in the Kwaia country.
>
> "*Q*. Then I take it you were not aware of a man being shot at Mabobo?—*A*. There was not a single shot fired the whole time except in the Kwaia country.
>
> "*Q*. Do you remember being at Mabobo?—*A*. I have heard the name, but cannot fix anything.
>
> "*Q*. You are not aware of such an incident as a man being shot?—*A*. No.
>
> "*Q*. Anything about a man not giving up a cutlass?—*A*. Nothing of the sort during the whole of my command."

I think the right hon. Gentleman will agree with me that those questions were directed to elicit from Captain Moore any contradiction which he had to give of the incident spoken to by the other witness. Captain Moore therefore was not only absolved by the Commissioners from all blame in the matter, but was actually offered an opportunity of denying the charge. I quite agree with an observation made by the right hon. Gentleman in a subsequent paragraph, that Sir David Chalmers was under a great disadvantage in the fact that he had not the benefit of cross-examination by counsel or agent representing the officers against whom the charges were made. That was certainly a disadvantage, because undoubtedly when you are testing the credibility of a witness it is an immense advantage to have him under cross-examination. Notwithstanding that disadvantage, I think the Commissioner did his duty admirably and nobly. These are just questions that anyone representing Captain Moore would necessarily have put if he knew his business, and that the Commissioner should have remembered to put them some days after the charge was made, is a striking testimony to the scrupulous care and fidelity with which he discharged his duty. The next stricture passed upon the Commissioner is with regard to a remark he made relating to another District Commissioner. The right hon. Gentleman says in his letter—

> "There is a reference in the Report to evidence that Capt. Sharpe wounded a native by striking him on the head with a stick. Sir D. Chalmers adds that Capt. Sharpe did not deny this, although not admitting it in terms. Capt. Sharpe, I observe, gave evidence that the man was very roughly handled, but that he was not wounded in any way. The evidence referred to by Sir D. Chalmers was given subsequently, and Capt. Sharpe was given no opportunity of denying it."

The House will see at once that the stricture amounted to this—that whereas it had been said by a subordinate that Capt. Sharpe had struck a man on the head with a stick, the District Commissioner, when in the witness-box, was not asked specifically to contradict that statement. I can give two answers which show that the Commissioner here as in every other particular discharged his duty with scrupulous fidelity. At page 219 the following question to Capt. Sharpe will be found—

> "Last time you were here you described an endeavour made to arrest Bai Bureh: there

was a man you got hold of and brought away for a short distance; it is said that you struck him on the head and that his head was broken?—*A*. He was certainly very roughly handled, but he was not wounded in any way."

His subordinate, some days later, was asked this question (page 461)—

> "What force had he [the Commander-in-Chief] with him?"

He gives a long account of the force, and then he refers to the incident in these words—

> "I saw the war-boys coming, and told the police to fix bayonets. The man shouted out, and Captain Sharpe hit him over the head with a short stick which had a knob of lead or iron at one end. One of the Frontiers took the sword from the man. At that time the man was bleeding."

This was a mere incident in the course of an episode, and I assure the right hon. Gentleman that if this inquiry had been conducted with strict regard to the rules of legal evidence as understood in our own courts it would not have been thought necessary to recall Captain Sharpe for the purpose of saying whether or not he had a stick in his hand and struck this man on the head. If it had been the question at issue, it might have been necessary, but whether or not, Captain Sharpe does not specifically deny the thing; he says the man was very roughly handled. It was surely unnecessary to recall Captain Sharpe to contradict such a trivial statement. I must apologise to the House for detaining them, but really the feelings of Sir D. Chalmers' friends and relations are very keen upon this subject. My last stricture is in reference to another charge against a District Commissioner. The right hon. Gentleman says in his letter (paragraph 26)—

> "Sir D. Chalmers states that he had collected information as to the arrests in the Bandajuma district from other witnesses, Captain Carr having forgotten, or not deemed it requisite in giving his evidence, to communicate the information, or indeed to make it known to me, that there had been any difficulty in the tax collection in his district. It is not alleged that Captain Carr answered any question incorrectly, and I observe that he was not asked about the arrests, either specifically or under a general question, for the Royal Commissioner passed directly from the amount collected before the rising to the rising; but to other witnesses the matter of the arrests was put specifically."

The Royal Commissioner did not say that Captain Carr had answered any question incorrectly. What he said was that he did not tell him that arrests were required to be made in order to secure payment of the tax. It is right to observe, and I think the right hon. Gentleman has failed to notice in this paragraph, that Captain Carr was going home on leave of absence, and therefore he was examined at the very commencement of the inquiry, within four days of Sir David Chalmers' landing at Sierra Leone, before the Commissioner had prepared that elaborate list of questions which he submitted to witnesses later on, and before he had made himself thoroughly conversant with all the incidents connected with the insurrection. According to page 12, Captain Carr was asked a question which I am bound to say, if he had been a frank and willing witness, would necessarily have elicited any evidence he had to give relevant to the difficulties in the way of collecting the tax. He was asked how much was collected, and he goes on about the rising. I agree he did not make any incorrect statement, but, after all, is not that putting the duty of an officer too low, especially when it is remembered that in the Commission on which Sir David Chalmers went out to Sierra Leone all officers are enjoined "to be aiding and assisting" him in executing his commission. It was not much to expect that an experienced District Commissioner, who knew it was difficult to collect the tax, and who had had to arrest and imprison men on that account, should have volunteered that information without it being extracted from him. These are the main strictures passed upon the conduct of Sir David Chalmers in this inquiry. They probably do not seem to the House to be very serious, but they were thought sufficiently serious by the Colonial Secretary to warrant him in submitting the Report to Sir Frederick Cardew for his observations. I repeat I make no complaint of that, but I do think the Colonial Secretary will agree that I have successfully shown that the strictures passed upon this able and faithful public servant are not warranted, when one closely examines the Report and the evidence and appendices by which it is accompanied. I absolve the right hon. Gentleman from any intention to cast imputations upon the impartiality or the accuracy of the findings of the Royal Commission, and if he agrees with me that I have offered these criticisms with moderation and with accuracy, I hope he will give some expression of his views to the House with regard to the services of Sir David Chalmers which will be satisfactory to those who regarded him as a man of scrupulous integrity. Nothing more is asked for, and nothing less should be given to the memory of a man who literally gave his life to the performance of his duty, and whose unimpeachable integrity and fidelity to the Queen and his country no one has ever attempted to question.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he thought his hon. friends behind him were quite justified in calling attention to the case of Sierra Leone and Sir David Chalmers, for it had given them an opportunity of drawing attention to a matter which had been crowded out by the more important questions in regard to South Africa. This was all the more necessary because certain reflections had been cast upon this old public servant both in speeches and in Reports. He thought the hon. Gentlemen behind him who had spoken on this subject had done credit not only to themselves but also to Sir David Chalmers by the manner in which they had drawn attention to this matter. The right hon. Gentleman when this matter was discussed last year on the Appropriation Bill was fully entitled to say that he was not bound as Secretary of State for the Colonies to accept the conclusions arrived at by the Commission. He had to judge of the matter as placed before him, and, of course, he made himself responsible for the conclusions to which he came. He could not agree with the pessimistic view which his hon. friend took of the present position as to the results of the hut tax, but what he wanted was to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he could give them some further information than that which they had received in the Blue-books in regard to the present position of the Protectorate of Sierra Leone. Could the right hon. Gentleman tell them what position this hut tax stood in at the present moment? He should be glad to know whether the hut tax was being collected peacefully and properly, or whether it was being paid under the fear of further reprisals. When the late Government were in office they did not think it was expedient to impose that tax, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman, looking back at the position, would confess that perhaps the tax was imposed somewhat prematurely and hastily. The Report of Sir Frederick Cardew himself showed that there was very great danger of the imposition of such a tax leading to some native difficulties. From the evidence produced before Sir David Chalmers it must be confessed that this tax was imposed somewhat roughly and brutally, and he was afraid also with some illegality, and that some of these natives and chiefs were not treated in a way which was likely to lead to the peaceful collection of such an imposition as the new hut tax. He was afraid that this had produced a good deal of the difficulties which had arisen in the Protectorate. That result was shown in the right hon. Gentleman's speech last year, when he stated that regulations had been issued in regard to the collection of the hut tax which would get rid of the abuses in regard to its collection. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman would say that the hut tax was not the sole cause of the difficulties which had arisen in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, and that those difficulties were due to some fear on the part of the natives that they would suffer from civilisation being brought into their midst. But at any rate, if the hut tax was not the sole cause, it could not be denied that it was a very serious contributory cause to the rising, and what they wanted to know at the present moment was whether the state of affairs in Sierra Leone was at present fairly satisfactory, and whether the right hon. Gentleman proposed to take any measures or make any alteration in the hut tax itself or in the mode of its collection. The remarks which had been made in reference to the position of these District Commissioners struck him as being matters of considerable gravity. What was the statement made in regard to that matter? He understood that the Protectorate had been divided into different districts with Commissioners at their head. These Commissioners were men who had not had any legal training or opportunities of obtaining legal information, and these men were practically put there with the power of life and death in their hands. One of the passages read by the hon. Member for Wick was very significant, because it showed that one of these District Commissioners was put there not only as the administrator but practically as a judge, and it was admitted that he was not aware that, in certain circumstances, he could inflict punishment with or without hard labour. He thought it was a very strong measure that these Commissioners without any legal training should have this enormous power of life and death. They had the power of sentencing a man to death and carrying out that sentence without any right to appeal. He knew that the matter went to the Governor for confirmation, but there was no right of appeal on the part of the man concerned. That seemed to him to be a very strong power to give to these District Commissioners. His view of the state of affairs in the Protectorate was that the pace had been rather too fast. In regard to the hinterland of our West African colonies there had been too rapid action, and it had caused fear on the part of the native chiefs that they were going to be absorbed in a way to which they objected. He thought the House was entitled to some information in regard to the present position, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give a satisfactory account of the situation. He hoped also that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell them something in regard to the Ashanti war. He did not wish to say much about that war, because, at the present moment, they were denied information. All they knew was that the Governor had been besieged, and that a gallant rescue had been made by Colonel Willcocks. They also knew that an expeditionary force was being sent out which would cost some £250,000. It should be remembered that this was the third time that a punitive expedition had been sent into that country, and he thought the House was entitled to know how it was that we had been placed in this position a third time. Apparently the whole matter seemed to be, like the Chinese question, a sort of bolt from the blue. Something suddenly had occurred to cause this rising, and they wanted to know from the right hon. Gentleman if he had any information in regard to it, what was the real contributory cause of this rising, or whether it was, like some other events, in the nature of an "inevitable war" for which no inadequate provision had been made. They were too much accustomed to these little incidents to pay very much attention to them at the present moment, because their attention was centred elsewhere, and public attention had not been directed to these occurrences so much. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give them some assurance that, as soon as the expedition was over and the necessary punishment had been inflicted, some proper inquiry would be held into the whole matter, so that they might know how it was that this rising had suddenly sprung upon them, and how they could prevent such a thing occurring again in the future. He was afraid this might be something in the nature of the Sierra Leone question over again. As far as one could judge, the position in Ashanti appeared to be similar to that in Sierra Leone. He was not saying whether it was right or wrong, but he thought a contributory cause of the outbreak in Ashanti was that when Ashanti was taken over the chiefs were given to understand that the independence of the country would be maintained under British control. But that pledge had not been kept. The tribes were being gradually broken up, and the chiefs were being treated in a manner they never anticipated. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee an assurance that a proper inquiry into the matter would be held, in order that such unfortunate occurrences, which were only too frequent and which were very serious from every point of view, might be avoided in the outlying districts of the Empire. There was one other question on which he desired information if the right hon. Gentleman would kindly give it, and that was the question of Jamaica. Two questions had arisen—one political, the other financial. With regard to the political question he understood it was practically settled. It was one of those cases in which, under the hybrid constitution which existed in many of the Crown Colonies, the unofficial members without any responsibility came into conflict with the official members with all the responsibility. He did not think that such a constitution could ever work properly. He did not blame the Secretary of State because, in the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman, certain things had to be done under certain circumstances over-riding the action of the unofficial members; but what was done in Jamaica was done not only in a very high-handed manner, but he was not sure whether it was done in a legal manner. With regard to the financial position in Jamaica, he should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he was in a position to give a fairly satisfactory account of the finances of the island. The Committee would remember that last year a sum of nearly half a million was voted for the benefit of Jamaica, which was not for public works or anything of that kind, but in order to meet deficiencies in the ordinary revenue and deficiencies in regard to the interest on the railway which the island had to take over. He was afraid there was not much security for that loan. He did not complain of its having been advanced under the circumstances, but, looking at the present position of the island and to the fact that the island had to take over a mismanaged and unfortunate railway, it did not look as if much of the loan would be paid back. He desired information on three points—the financial position of Jamaica, the present position of Sierra Leone, and what steps were to be taken to restore permanent peace in Ashanti.

Mr. TOMLINSON (Preston) said his attention had been called to a matter which appeared to be of some importance, though the information furnished him was not very perfect. It had reference to the compensation which was to be awarded to colonists in Natal whose property had been destroyed or injured by the Boers. He understood that the Boers having entirely evacuated the colony, the work of compensation had been taken in hand by the Colonial Government. An allegation had been made to him that in considering the question of compensation a distinction had been drawn between private individuals and joint stock companies, and it was said that injury to the property of a company could not be considered. He had received a letter with reference to a coal mining company near Newcastle, which stated that instructions were issued that the claim of the company to compensation should not be considered. Supposing there were two collieries working side by side, one owned by a private individual and the other by a company, the former would be entitled to compensation, whereas it would appear the latter would not. A hardship would be done in such a case, and as the matter was exciting great interest in the colony he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to assure the Committee that no such arbitrary distinction would be made.

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): With regard to the disturbance in Ashanti it has been a very serious rising. The Governor and his staff and several ladies were in the greatest possible danger for some period of time. I desire to join in the congratulations which have been offered to Colonel Willcocks on his remarkable display of military skill, perseverance, and general high, soldierlike qualities. At the same time it should not be forgotten that Governor Hodgson also displayed very high qualities. The point to which I wish to direct attention is that the garrison at Coomassie was really inadequate to the demands of the situation. I asked a question on the subject about the 18th June, and the right hon. Gentleman then informed the House that there were stores for 300 men for three months in Coomassie, and that that was considered sufficient. That was a very extraordinary statement, and the Committee have a right to know who was the military authority that expressed such an opinion. On that occasion the right hon. Gentleman also stated that the first attempt to relieve Coomassie had failed, owing to insufficiency of carriers. I think the right hon. Gentleman must have been misinformed. The first relieving column failed because it was repulsed by a superior force. As has been pointed out, the situation at Coomassie has cleared by the remarkable display of military qualities both by the Governor, Sir Frederick Hodgson, and Colonel Willcocks, but I think that the cause of the outbreak ought to be investigated carefully. I never felt satisfied as to the manner in which the Envoys sent over from Ashanti before the occupation of that country were received by the Colonial Office. They were denied the right of a hearing, to which apparently they had a claim, and they were refused all credence to their representations. I may be quite mistaken in that view, for I am talking at second hand; but, generally, I fear that the Ashantis have had a good deal of provocation, especially the members of the old Royal family. I only want to say one word in regard to South Africa—in regard to the position in which the loyalists there, who have suffered so much during the war, find themselves at the present moment. I think the right hon. Gentleman will agree with me that there is a good deal of suffering among certain classes in Natal and in portions of Cape Colony—though not to the same extent—and also amongst British subjects in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. I admit that there is a great deal of difficulty in dealing with this question carefully and justly, and that it will probably require a very considerable expenditure before it is satisfactorily settled. But these people have great claims upon this country. The provisions of the British Government for the defence of Natal and the Cape border were very inadequate, although very ample warning had been given. That, however, is a very large question which I do not propose to raise in any detail now. But it is a very important question, and has a very large bearing on the claims of these people upon us. The defence of the Government as to the inadequacy of the preparations was that the moment they had determined to put the colonies into a strictly military defensive position that moment the enemy would have in any case attacked. That might be a good defence, but it had been pressed too far. A great deal of the want of preparation was due to defects in our constitutional system—making questions of war or peace depend on popularity or unpopularity rather than on the real necessities of the case. Whether that be so or not, our responsibilities are great towards these suffering people. I ask whether it may not be possible to take some temporary steps, by sending out a high officer or a small commission to South Africa, which would have power to give some form of temporary relief to the loyalists not only in the British colonies, but in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, who have suffered through no fault of their own. We had heard of temporary assistance being given to the relations of British officers who perished owing to the unfortunate action of another Power, until the whole question of compensation could be settled; and it appears to me that something in the same direction might be done in South Africa. If that were done, it would give great satisfaction to our loyal colonists, who have great claims upon us. I admit there are difficulties in the way, but a practical method might be found by the Imperial Government of giving that temporary assistance which is needed so badly.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In answering the various questions which have been put to me in the discussion, I will, in the first place, deal with the reference by the hon. Member for Wick and the hon. Member for Linlithgowshire to the Report of Sir David Chalmers and the incidents connected with the insurrection in Sierra Leone. I confess I was at first almost unable to understand why the hon. Member for Wick should have thought it necessary, when the matter had become almost ancient history, to repeat a large portion of the argument which he addressed to the Committee on the Appropriation Bill last year, and which I answered fully, better, perhaps, than I can do now, because then the facts were fresh in my recollection. But the hon. Members for Wick and Linlithgowshire are anxious that some feeling of soreness that has been created in the minds of the relatives of the late Sir David Chalmers should be removed. With that desire I heartily sympathise, and, as far as it is in my power, I will comply with their request. But in the meantime, referring to some of the observations of the hon. Member for Wick, I would point out to him that he has been very considerably misinformed in what he said about the hut tax. He went again over the complaints made last year—the harshness of its collection, and the conduct of the District Commissioner. I gave last year the reasons for the policy of imposing the hut tax, and showed the absolute impossibility of finding any alternative. If peace and order are to be maintained in this vast district we must have funds, and there are no other means of raising them so easy or so suitable as the hut tax has shown itself to be, not only in Sierra Leone but in every other country in which we have had to deal with native races. As regards the incidence of the hut tax, there is nothing further to be said. But the hon. Member opposite, while complaining of what he calls charges against Sir David Chalmers, himself makes most offensive charges against those who are at present officials of the Government. I appeal to the hon. Member to consider the effect of such speeches. Defend Sir David Chalmers by all means, but do not attack those whom you have never seen, who are carrying on a very difficult work at the risk of their health and their lives for a very small remuneration. It is these men upon whom we depend for the work of civilisation and the development which we have undertaken, and it is most unfair to make charges which, with all the rest of the speech omitted, will be sent out to the colony, and may have the effect of discouraging men who are doing their duty in very difficult circumstances. I protest against that much too frequent action of hon. Members, and one of the worst offenders is the hon. Member for Poplar, who, after occupying an important position in the Colonial Office, might have been thought to be willing to defend officials, many of whom were appointed during his term of office.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: All that I said was that I objected to the powers given to those officials.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member for Poplar, speaking of a letter which confirms the statement of the hon. Member for Wick, says it is a monstrous thing that the District Commissioners should have powers of life and death in the Protectorate, and at the same time says he believes that all the difficulties in the Protectorate and all the difficulties in Ashanti (eight hundred miles away, with two separate countries in between—and the most difficult country in the world) were caused by our interference with the privileges of the native chiefs. I quite agree that if you are to deal with the government of these vast protectorates — I am not talking of colonies, for they are different—you must, as far as possible, deal with them through the chiefs, and according to native customs and native law. What is the case? The chiefs have the power of life and death over their own people in the Protectorate, and all we have done is to insist that there shall be a European assessor in the shape of a District Commissioner, and that Commissioner is to see that justice is being done. The sentence of death is passed by the chief, with the consent of the District Commissioner, who has power to disallow the sentence. Something has been said about the qualifications of District Commissioners. It is not easy to find competent British lawyers to go into the wilds of Africa, with no white man within hundreds of miles. In the second place, what use do you think British law would be where cases are dealt with according to native law? It is not our business to interfere with the chiefs except so far as is necessary in the cause of humanity and to prevent oppression. With regard to Sir David Chalmers and the reception of his Report, I really am very much grieved that I should be thought to have uttered a word of complaint respecting anything done by Lady Chalmers, whom I regard, and with whom I sympathise very much in the loss of her husband, who was a valuable servant of the Crown. But I do think the relatives of Sir David Chalmers are unreasonable, for when I read what I said when the first discussion took place, I hardly see how it is possible it could have the effect represented. I said—

> "I have not one word to say against him. He was recommended to me by his long experience of his work and his most valuable public services. He had been Chief Justice, and was therefore naturally supposed to have, and rightly supposed to have, a judicial and impartial mind, and he most patriotically agreed to go out to a country of whose climate he had had some experience. It was there, I am afraid, that he contracted the seeds of new disease, and he has suffered very severely in consequence. Sir David Chalmers was selected as the most impartial and judicious man I could find, and I am most thankful, most grateful, to him for the very valuable inquiries he made. I think he has placed a most valuable number of facts before us; and although I have not found myself able to agree with all the conclusions at which he arrived, I am none the less sensible of the obligations I am under to him for the inquiry and for the services he has done."

How was it possible to say more than that? I had to do justice not only to Sir David Chalmers, but also to those who lay under the imputations which were necessarily implied in his Report. In defending them I did not accuse him. I did not doubt then and I do not now his absolute impartiality, and his painstaking, scrupulous general accuracy; but, having to act myself as a final court of appeal in this matter, I came to the conclusion that in some respects he had been too hard on other officers in the colonial service, and I was obliged to point out that in those cases I had not been able to accept his conclusions. But with his most important recommendations I agreed, and we have since carried out the reforms he suggested, I believe with the very best result. I have further to say that the hon. Member for Poplar was inaccurate in the statements he made with regard to the result of the hut tax. I cannot answer for the future. It is true that we do not know enough of these savage countries to be able always to predict beforehand what is likely to go on among them, what will happen, or what difficulty will occur. We have not a sufficient number of Europeans amongst them. All I can say at the present time is that the hut tax appears to be collected with the greatest ease. There is no difficulty of any kind, and there is no anticipation of any present disorder, and the finances of Sierra Leone are at the present moment in a very satisfactory condition. The hon. Member for Poplar and the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield referred to what was going on in Ashanti. I rejoice to confirm what has been said about the splendid gallantry of the native troops employed there under the skilful leadership of Colonel Willcocks, and the way in which Sir Frederic and Lady Hodgson and all members of the garrison endured the privations of the siege. Everything connected with that part of the incident must be extremely satisfactory to the House. What has been done up to the present time has never been done before and could never be done before. I wish to dwell on this fact a little, because it is no doubt probable that in future years, if I hold my present position, I may have to come to the House for a grant for what is known as the West African Frontier Force. The West African Frontier Force is a new force of 5,000 men raised from the Hausas in West Africa, and intended not merely for the protection of our interests in northern Nigeria, but to be used in local disturbances throughout West Africa. In the present instance, the moment we heard of the difficulties in Coomassie, although the Governor did not anticipate that the rising would be as serious as it had been, I telegraphed to Colonel Lugard, who was able to send him all the troops I asked for. Only about 1,500 of these troops had been placed on the coast a short time, and it is of these troops especially that Colonel Willcocks speaks in such glowing terms. Happily it has been proved that they are a most splendid race of fighting men, able to supply any deficiency of men we thought at one time likely to be experienced because we were unable to get Hausa troops. The hon. Member asks me what was the cause of this disturbance. We have not the facts before us, and it would be hopeless to attempt at the present moment to give any reasonable account of what has happened. But I think that one or two things will suggest themselves to hon. Members. It is said that there have been three expeditions to Ashanti. The expedition under Lord Wolseley was not an expedition which resulted in any permanent occupation of the country; it was merely a punitive expedition; it was enormously costly because so many white men were employed. Then we had the expedition in 1896, which resulted in the occupation of the country; but that expedition was a bloodless expedition. We had no occasion to fight, and there is no doubt in these circumstances that the Ashantis entertained a high opinion of their prowess, and were prepared to try conclusions with us when they believed that they had a reason to be discontented. What special cause of discontent they have at the present time it is too early to say, but that will be, no doubt, a subject of inquiry on the part of the Colonial Office when the proper time comes.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Why was there so small a garrison?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Because it was thought to be sufficient. It was quite sufficient for the purpose for which it was intended to be there—that is to say, sufficient for ordinary times. If my hon. friend intends to suggest to me that throughout West Africa and the colonies for which I am responsible I should have always on the spot a sufficient number of troops to put down any rising that may occur, all I can say is that I should cease to be an Imperialist. Powerful and rich as this country is, it is quite impossible to undertake that. We must take the risks of Empire. There is no doubt that if we profess to govern and control and be responsible for these vast territories, we hold them only with a comparatively small number of troops, and when a trouble arises in any place it is almost certain that we should not have at the spot the number of men required to put down the rising. All we can hope for is that we should have within reach a sufficient number of men to deal with it. If my hon. friend will consider what we are answerable for in Nigeria, in Lagos, on the Gold Coast, in Sierra Leone, and that we have at the present time a little over 4,000 troops there, I think he will understand that it is impossible to be always thoroughly prepared for any sudden disturbance.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I did not expect that at all. I said that a garrison of 300 men in an important position like Coomassie was insufficient. I still adhere to that view. Besides, the subsequent expense entailed by the successful rising is far greater.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think that a garrison of 300 men is insufficient, and if we had had 600 men there it would have been no better. In order to have dealt with this most serious insurrection in a satisfactory way it is evident we should require at least 2,000 men, and nothing of that kind was contemplated as a permanent garrison for Coomassie. I have come to the conclusion that it is desirable in future to hold a much larger stock of ammunition in Coomassie. The greatest difficulty is in regard to food. In that climate even tinned food will not last. It is impossible to have a large supply of food to last for more than three months. Our difficulties have not come to an end in Ashanti. We still have fighting to do, and reinforcements will still be required there. But the great security for the Gold Coast will be found in the railways which we are now making. We have arranged, on terms most satisfactory to the colony, for the continuation of the railway to Coomassie, which was authorised two years ago, and as soon as we get the railway there I do not think we shall have any trouble in Ashanti. If it had not been for this unfortunate occurrence the finances of the Gold Coast would be in a most satisfactory condition. In the last two years we expected to have an average surplus of something like £50,000, which would have enabled us to repay the entire loan which we borrowed from the Treasury for the purposes of the last expedition. All that is now postponed for a considerable time, but if my anticipations are fulfilled the annual surplus in a reasonable time will allow us to pay the expenses not only of the last but of the present expedition. With reference to Jamaica and its finances, I am sorry that the hon. Member for Poplar takes so poor a view of the future prosperity of the island. I am much more sanguine than the hon. Member. I think that the neck of the trouble in Jamaica has been broken, and I look forward with hope to the prospect of improvement from three separate quarters. First of all, the taxes have been considerably raised. I am aware the tariff has given some offence to some hon. Members, but the people must be prepared to bear the infliction until we may be in a position to relieve them, as I hope that will be soon. We have been enabled, thanks to the liberality of Parliament, to give a subsidy, partly by the colony and partly by the Imperial Government, to a great steamship firm, Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Co., and I hope shortly to see a direct rapid and improved passenger and fruit service established between this country and Jamaica. I confess that I have great hopes of the development of what is even now one of the most important industries in the island. The third expectation arises from the improvement which I hope will now take place in the administration of the railway. It has been involved in serious embarrassments and has been badly managed, but we are taking the necessary steps to correct this defect, and I hope, now that the railway is in the hands of the Government, and they have established their right to control the financial transactions, we shall be able to put the finances in a satisfactory condition. I now turn to a subject mentioned to the House by the hon. Member for Preston. It has been stated that, according to existing proposals, compensation is not to be paid to companies in Natal and elsewhere whose property has been injured as distinguished from injury done to individuals. I do not think that statement is perfectly correct, but it is true that we have carefully avoided making ourselves in any way responsible for making compensation in the case of mines. I may tell my hon. friend the Member for Preston that in doing that we had in view the danger of setting up any precedent which might be extremely inconvenient hereafter. Fortunately, the injury done to mines, whether in Natal or elsewhere, has been very slight; but although I am not in any way prepared to pledge myself to make any compensation to the coal mine owners in Natal, yet if the colony are themselves desirous of making inquiry into the matter I should offer no objection, leaving the question of decision for a later period. In connection with a similar matter the hon. Member for Ecclesall asks me a question in regard to the position of British subjects in Natal, in Cape Colony, in the Transvaal, and in the Orange River Colony, who are in distress. I admit that a great number of British subjects are in great distress. Their condition is a subject for general sympathy. I should be sorry if anything I say should be construed into any want of sympathy with them, or that we were ignorant of the sufferings which they have undergone in many cases in consequence of their loyalty. But if my hon. friend the Member for Ecclesall wishes the Government to undertake some sort of general responsibility for compensation in those colonies, I think he cannot have considered to what it would lead. The question of compensation to colonists is surely in the first instance a matter for the colonial Government. If this country is never to enter on the defence of any of its colonies without undertaking at the same time responsibility for all injury that may be done to those colonies by war, I think it would be a strong argument with many people against this country ever undertaking the defence of colonies at all. Let hon. Gentlemen consider what our colonies are. What are the liabilities of some of our great colonies? We might, under conceivable circumstances, be called upon to defend a great colony against a great Power, and that colony might be invaded and immense mischief might be done. Surely that would not be a case in which the mother country, which was expending blood and treasure in defence of the colony, should also be expected to pay for the necessary consequences of war? I cannot undertake any responsibility of that kind, although, of course, if there were special cases brought to our knowledge, I am sure the Government would give the matter their most careful consideration.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution read a second time, and agreed to.

SUPPLY [2ND AUGUST].

Resolutions reported:—

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1900-1901.

CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £45,501, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £124,483, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

CLASS I.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £22,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £35,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £18,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £226,403, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £132,685, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for the Maintenance of Drainage Works on the River Shannon."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £35,487, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for payments under the Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883, the Light Railways (Ireland) Acts, 1889 and 1893, the Tramways (Ireland) Act, 1895, the Railways (Ireland) Act, 1896."

CLASS II.

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,896, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Offices of the House of Commons."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £96,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

13. "That a sum not exceeding £133,561, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Subordinate Departments."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,018, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of certain services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £5, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for meeting the Deficiency of Income from Fees, etc., for the requirements of the Board of Trade, under the Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890, and the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890."

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £13,439, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments."

17. "That a sum, not exceeding £33,040, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings."

18. "That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services."

19. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,508, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for Expenses under the Vaccination Act, Infectious Disease Notification Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Public Health (Scotland) Act, Poor Law (Scotland) Act, and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899."

20. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,811, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland."

21. "That a sum, not exceeding £63,245, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants-in-Aid."

22. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland."

23. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the Keeper of State Papers in Dublin."

24. "That a sum, not exceeding £20,682, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Public Works in Ireland."

25. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,814, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Department of the Registrar General of Births, etc., and the Expenses of Collecting Emigration and other Statistics in Ireland."

26. "That a sum, not exceeding £10,589, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the General Valuation and Boundary Survey of Ireland."

CLASS III.

27. "That a sum, not exceeding £56,652, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Lord Advocate's Department, and other Law Charges, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Courts of Law and Justice in Scotland."

28. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,237, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices in Her Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh."

29. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Establishment of the Crofters' Commission."

30. "That a sum, not exceeding £50,684, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, and of the Prisons under their control, including the Maintenance of Criminal

Lunatics and the Preparation of Judicial Statistics."

31. "That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland."

32. "That a sum, not exceeding £62,262, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

33. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,710, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries, Allowances, and Expenses of various County Court Officers, of Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision."

34. "That a sum, not exceeding £56,150, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin."

35. "That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

36. "That a sum, not exceeding £74,443, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals."

37. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,906, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

CLASS IV.

38. "That a sum not exceeding £690,318, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

39. "That a sum not exceeding £2,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for a grant to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland in aid of the maintenance of the National Gallery, School of Art, and Museum of Antiquities, Scotland."

40. "That a sum, not exceeding £515, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

41. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,079, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland, including a Grant-in-Aid for the purchase of pictures."

42. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

CLASS V.

43. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £200,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the

year ending the 31st day of March, 1901, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants-in-Aid."

CLASS VI.

44. "That a sum, not exceeding £468, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Hospitals and Infirmaries, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland, including sundry Grants-in-Aid."

CLASS VII.

45. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,191, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund of certain Miscellaneous Advances."

46. "That a sum, not exceeding £37,030 be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Contribution to the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account."

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

47. "That a sum, not exceeding £275,000 be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

48. "That a sum, not exceeding £204,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Ordnance Factories (the cost of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

Resolutions read a second time.

First six Resolutions agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Seventh Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £226,403, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc, in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.'"

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) drew attention to the amount of £10,000, which was the contribution made by the Government to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It was an extremely proper sum to contribute in 1865, when the Government paid no rates on Government property; but the Fire Brigade being now under the control of the London County Council, and the Government now paying rates upon its property, the reason for the grant had disappeared. The County Council did not want the money, and he could see no justification for its continuance. It would have to be paid this year, but he hoped the Committee would receive an assurance that it would be discontinued in the future.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) pointed out that there always had been contributions by the Government to institutions in London which had never been made in the case of provincial towns. He admitted there was a great deal in what had been said by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, and agreed that owing to the payment of rates upon Government property an entirely different position was created. In another year he would give the matter his serious consideration.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions Eight and Nine agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Tenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £4,297, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords.' "

MR. GIBSON BOWLES called attention to the delay in filling up the position of the third or Reading Clerk in the House of Lords. He believed the office had been kept vacant for almost a year, entirely owing to some misunderstanding or some difference of opinion as to who should fill the office up, and who should be the person to be put into it. The Committee of the House of Lords which sat to consider the question of its own offices came to the conclusion that whenever the post became vacant it should be filled up by one of the permanent staff of the House of Lords. The Joint Committee of both Houses, which sat in 1899, received that recommendation, and agreed with it. There was, therefore, a very strong recommendation that that form should be followed, and there were very good reasons for following it; but the office had been vacant for nearly a year, and the common voice of rumour said the recommendation of the two Committees was not to be followed, and that a person entirely outside the staff of the House of Lords was to be appointed to it. He complained that during the year a large amount of work had been thrown upon the other clerks of the House of Lords, and some inconvenience had been suffered by the public owing to the recommendations of the two Committees not being carried out. It was not the proper way to treat the officers of the House of Lords, and unless some explanation was given he should raise the matter upon the Vote early next session.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that in point of fact the Joint Committee was neither more nor less than a farce. By the interpretation placed upon the terms of reference by the noble Lord who presided over it, the Committee was debarred from discussing any of the questions which the House desired it to discuss. The proceedings of the Committee, which was appointed at the instance of the right hon. Gentleman the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, after prolonged debates, were rendered nugatory by their being prevented from going into questions which it was necessary they should discuss.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) agreed with the remarks of the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, but he could not understand the conclusion which had been arrived at. As they had been able to get along during the year without a third clerk, he thought they might be content with two clerks in future. The hon. Member opposite said that rumour told him that there was some dispute as to who should appoint the clerk. When the clerk was appointed it would be time to make a protest, but so long as he was not appointed it was the gain of his salary to the country, and he hoped the dispute might continue.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said that two clerks were quite sufficient for the House of Lords. There were only two at the time of the Act of Union. When the Joint Committee sat to consider the question of the officers of the House of Lords he tried hard to object to it, and was ruled out of order at least half a dozen times. He tried to object to it on the ground that it did not contain an Irish Member, and, of course, it was a sham and a farce. It only required to have a Member of the House of Commons upon it who would not accept a pension for life, and he would have told the House of Lords how the work could have been done by two clerks.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he thought the House was entitled to have a word or two from the Financial Secretary to the Treasury on this subject, as it was mainly through his instrumentality that the Committee was appointed. He did not think that the right hon. Gentleman was satisfied with the result which the Committee had arrived at. He intended that there should be a searching and thorough inquiry, and there was not. As the right hon. Gentleman had taken the initiative in cutting down the salaries of the staff when the Committee was appointed, and as the Committee were debarred from making the inquiries which were intended, he thought the House was entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he was going to allow the matter to remain where it was or whether he was going to carry it further. If no satisfactory explanation was given, the House of Commons must use its time-honoured privilege and refuse to vote the Supply.

MR. HANBURY said it would be quite impossible for him to go into the various questions of privilege arising between various authorities of the House of Lords. The Treasury had no control over the Vote, but had simply to explain the details of it. Undoubtedly the Committee were appointed to make a much more searching inquiry than they had been enabled to make, owing to the ruling of the Chair. Subjects were ruled outside the reference which he did not think it was considered would be outside the reference when the Committee were appointed. He was bound to say that he thought it was somewhat unfortunate that the Committee were not able to hold a thorough inquiry and go into a number of subjects which it would have been satisfactory, even from the point of view of the House of Lords, to have had thoroughly ventilated. It was impossible for him to give a pledge that any further inquiry would be made. As to the third clerk, the hon. Member for Carnarvon said with justice that he had raised the question in the last Parliament, and the object he had in view, which had been obtained, was that the salaries of the clerks of the House of Lords should be placed upon the same footing as those of the House of Commons, and, in view of the fact that the salaries of the clerks, which used to be higher in the House of Lords, had now been placed on the same footing in the two Houses, he thought that there should be three clerks at the Table in the House of Lords, as there were in the House of Commons. With regard to the point of patronage which had been raised, he could not speak with any authority, but he understood that there had been some discussion on the subject. The salary of the third or Reading Clerk was in respect of two offices, and he understood that the question in dispute was whether the Reading Clerk should be appointed to two offices or whether they should be divided, and two officials appointed as before.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 128; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 275.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J.(Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach,Rt.Hn.Sir M.H.(Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V. C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett,A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis,Fiennes StanleyW.
Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHnSir J.(Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding. Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence,SirE.Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorksh.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
Melville, Beresford V.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morrison, James A.(Wilts., S)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn.A. G. (Bute)
Murray,Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Rt.Hn.Sir MatthewW.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John

Seeley, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-L.)
Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Charles Dilke and Mr.
Gibson Bowles.

Resolutions 11 to 15 agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Sixteenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £13,439, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments.'"

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said, that in regard to this Vote he desired to raise a question with regard to which he would not trouble them in any great detail. It had been raised before, and the House thought he was justified in raising it before. It was this. The North Wales Lunatic Asylum Committee was obliged by the Local Government Board to obtain a fresh water supply, and in order to obtain that, it was necessary that the level of a certain lake should be raised. In order to raise the level of that lake it became necessary to approach the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the purpose of acquiring certain lands. The Woods and Forests Department said that in order to make the title perfectly secure it would be necessary to purchase the mineral rights. The committee of the lunatic asylum thereupon entered into negotiations with the Woods and Forests Commissioners. The chairman of the asylum committee called upon the Commissioners and drew their attention to the fact that the mineral rights which were, it was stated, to be acquired were of a perfectly nominal character and were practically valueless to them. In spite of that the Woods and Forests Commissioners fixed the price of the mineral rights at £500. The asylum committee were absolutely staggered at such a price being charged for rights which in their view were entirely valueless, and they wrote to the Commissioners setting forth their reasons for believing the rights to be of no value. No reply had ever been received from the Commissioners, but they did reduce the price from £500 to £444. When he replied to the Secretary to the Treasury on a former occasion the right hon. Gentleman replied that the committee themselves had voluntarily offered £400 for the mineral rights. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman for that reply, because, although it was not accurate, he relied upon wrong information which had been supplied to him. As a matter of fact the North Wales Lunatic Asylum Committee made that offer because they were entirely in the hands of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. They were compelled to buy the mineral rights, and to pay that sum of £444, which he contended was a great injustice to them. The mineral rights, as a matter of fact, were not worth a five pound note, and he himself would have been very sorry to give such a sum for them. He had raised the question for the purpose of pointing out and urging that in negotiations with public bodies the Commissioners ought to remember that the object of acquiring these lands was for the public benefit, and that it was their duty to act generously, honestly, and justly with any local bodies applying to them.

MR. HANBURY said several points had been raised by the hon. Gentleman as to whether the mineral rights were worth the price charged. He could only speak from the information which had been supplied, which was, that £500 had been asked by the vendors, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. In placing a certain value upon these mineral rights, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests had acted upon the advice of their valuer. He understood that the valuer put the same price on the mineral rights in this case as was paid in regard to certain other property in an adjoining district. He could not agree that the Commissioners ought to have sold the land to the board of the lunatic asylum at a lower price than to a private individual. The local ratepayer had no claim to any special concession from the Imperial taxpayer.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was glad that the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs had raised this question again, because it had enabled the Secretary to the Treasury to make a statement as to the attitude of his Department on the question. One point had been made clear by the Secretary to the Treasury—one proposition had been laid down which he found it difficult to assent to, and that was that local ratepayers were not entitled to any consideration at the hands of the Woods and Forests Commissioners. What had happened was this, that one Department of the Government had compelled a local authority to spend a considerable sum of money in order to increase its water supply. So as to do that, it was necessary to spend money, and another Department of the Government, the Woods and Forests Commissioners, were approached, and they asked a price out of all proportion to the value of the land. He contended that they were not entitled to take advantage of the circumstances in which the local authorities were placed and charge anything they liked. If the Woods and Forests Commissioners had said to the Asylum Board "You are compelled to buy these rights and pay £2,000," they would have had no option but to submit.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said he thought a local body, a *quasi*-public body, had been very harshly treated in this case. There was an analogous case in which the Woods and Forests Commissioners had acted in quite a different way. They had, in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, absolutely given fifteen acres of valuable public land to a *quasi*-public body. In face of that he thought that either their present action action was indefensible, or that, in the other case, they had done a wrong thing.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Seventeenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £33,040, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings.'"

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL desired, as the salary of the First Commissioner of Works was included under this Vote, to raise what he considered to be an important point. So long as the statue of Oliver Cromwell defiled the precincts of the House he would in season and out of season raise his voice in protest, and he should contest the Vote for the right hon. Gentleman's salary. He rejoiced in the fact that he was a man of peace, but he noticed that owing to the reticence on the part of the Irish Members in bringing their opinions before the House, there was a danger of their presence in the House being overlooked. On 9th October a resolution was passed by the House of Lords to the effect that no statue of Oliver Cromwell ought to be erected within the precincts of Parliament. With reckless disregard to that resolution the right hon. Gentleman, who had voted against Cromwell and all his ways in 1895, allowed this statue to be erected. Not only was his action disrespectful to the House of Lords, but it was wanting in respect to the House of Commons and his own party, because in 1895, when an hon. Gentleman, afflicted with a large Nonconformist conscience, raised the question of having a statue of Oliver Cromwell, the Irish party opposed it and the Tories voted with them. Oliver Cromwell was the last person in the world whose statue should be erected in the precincts of a constitutional assembly. He called the Mace a "bauble." He was no friend to the House of Lords, and he abolished it. He was no friend to the Church; it was true he did not describe the union of the Church and State as incestuous, but he destroyed the Church. He was a most hateful politician, even as an English politician, for he not only brought himself into public life, but, having commenced public life as a Radical, he brought in a whole string of relatives whom he pushed into public positions. The erection of a statue of this man was a standing insult to Ireland, whose people he murdered by thousands. To erect that statue within the precincts of a House of Commons which, owing to the exigencies of the circumstances, Irish representatives were compelled to attend, was a deliberate insult to every Irishman in existence. Was it felt that the Unionists were under such obligation to Lord Rosebery for having broken up the Liberal party that they were obliged to allow the monument to be erected? He should be glad to hear the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman, who had himself on two occasions voted against the erection of the statue. It would probably be put down to "continuity of policy," but the whole transaction was a gross, cowardly, and contemptible insult, against which Irishmen would protest on every possible occasion.

Mr. Swift MacNeill.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I do not intend to say more than two or three words. The hon. Member has made exactly the same speech on three occasions this session, with, perhaps, a slight variation of adjectives, and I have explained on two occasions my action in the matter. The hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that I have defended that action on the ground of continuity of policy, and he is also perfectly accurate when he says I voted in 1895 against the proposal to erect out of public funds a statue to Oliver Cromwell. When I came into office I found that my predecessor had accepted the offer of an anonymous donor to provide a statue, and had promised a site. The donor asked whether the Government intended to adhere to the promise he had made, on the faith of which the commission had already been given to the sculptor, and we replied in the affirmative. The site was chosen by my predecessor, and that site we gave. In no respect did we interfere with the action which had been taken. I do not think it would have been fair to upset the arrangement when it had gone so far, and I am perfectly prepared to take my share of responsibility in the matter.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) did not consider that the reason given by the right hon. Gentleman was a justification of his action. This statue had been erected practically within the precincts of the House, in spite of the fact that both Houses of Parliament had on different occasions declared they did not want it.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: The votes of the House were against the use of public money for the purpose.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that if the House decided against the use of public money for the purpose, the House meant by that to express its disapproval of the erection of the statue under any circumstances. That was the method by which the House testified its approval or disapproval of a policy. He did not, however, join in the condemnation of the donor of the statue. That gentleman was perfectly entitled to give money for the purpose if he so pleased, being a great admirer of Cromwell. His own opinion, however, of Cromwell was that he was one of the greatest ruffians in the history of the country; that he did acts of autocracy and tyranny far in excess of those of the unfortunate king whom he condemned to the scaffold. After his conduct in Ireland, to erect a statue to Cromwell in a House which still contained 103 Irish representatives was really very like a message of war and enmity to the Irish people. On a previous occasion the First Lord of the Treasury made a comparison with regard to the attitude of Irishmen towards Cromwell, which was entirely fallacious. The right hon. Gentleman said he lived near Dunbar, where Cromwell inflicted a great and terrible defeat upon the men of Scotland, but yet the people of Scotland had learned, wisely, to forget the ignominy of the defeat, and they did not to-day hold towards Cromwell the feelings of rancour and hatred such as were evidenced by Irishmen. But the continued detestation and hatred of Irishmen was not due to the fact that Cromwell beat the Irish in fair battle on an open field, but because he committed the assassinations and wholesale massacres of Drogheda. The comparison should not be with the battle of Dunbar, but with the massacre of Glencoe, as to which the horror of Scotchmen was as fresh to-day as when the massacre took place. There was really nothing in the point that it would have been unfair to have refused to erect the statue, as there were many parts of England where people would have been only too glad to give a site where the statue might have been erected without flouting the opinion of both Houses of Parliament, as had now been done.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 150; Noes, 10. (Division List No. 276.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalziel, James Henry
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert M.
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarv'nshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, James
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans'a
Lloyd-George, David
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Maddison, Fred
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, John T.
Monk, Charles James
Moore William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrison, James A. (Wilts, S.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hon. Wm. R. Wellesley
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Souttar, Robinson
Spencer, Ernest
Steadman, William Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strachey, Edward
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Crilly, Daniel
Doogan, P. C.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Hogan, James Francis
M'Leod, John
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. MacNeill and Mr. T.
P. O'Connor.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Eighteenth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £25,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.'"

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I am very conscious of the inconvenience of dealing with Votes in Supply on Report, and so far as I have been able I have abstained from doing so. At present I can only make one speech upon the subject, and in matters of this kind it is almost impossible to deal with such a subject in a satisfactory manner in one speech. In this instance I am forced to take this course, because this is one of the Votes which was guillotined last night, for out of 156 Votes 46 had their heads cut off last night without any discussion at all. This is a Vote for Foreign and other Secret Services of Her Majesty's Government; in other words, it is a sum of money which Her Majesty's Government asks for from this House in order to get private information from persons whose names it is not allowed to publish, and I need scarcely remind the House that it is one of those Votes which entirely escapes all audit and control, and almost all inquiry in this House. It is only accidentally that I am able on this occasion to animadvert upon the question of secret service money. I am by no means opposed to voting sums of money for secret services, for I believe it is absolutely necessary to have some fund from which to reward those who give this private information which is necessary for the safety of the country. I will go further and say that this money contrasts in a most remarkable manner with the much larger sums spent by other countries every year on a similar service. It is relatively a small sum, and it is absolutely necessary that such money should be spent. But if it be necessary to spend this money in ordinary times of peace, it is absolutely indispensable in times of war, and the English Government should have a considerable sum at its disposal to obtain information which may become of the most vital importance. In the time of Pitt and Napoleon we spent large sums of money in this way, and there arose a race of men who during the war between England and France acted as spies, and gave information to both sides. That is the nature of a spy, for if you want to get information from him as a rule you have not only got to pay him in money, but you have to give him some information which he may take to the other side. In times of war such information is most necessary. This is, perhaps, the one Vote among the sums voted by Parliament that escapes all subsequent examination. You vote this money and it goes into the hands of the Ministers, and then it absolutely disappears. All that we know is that particular Ministers have certified that the money has been expended with their approval. The Comptroller and Auditor General himself knows no more than this. But I shall be able to show that we have some means of knowing how the secret service money has been spent. If the secret service money is spent with judgment and in order to obtain true information it is extremely well spent; but if it is spent to obtain not true but false information, instead of being a benefit it is a most enormous injury, and that is exactly what has happened in this case, as I shall very shortly be able to show. In the beginning of the war with the Boers it became an extremely important matter that we should stop the carriage of contraband of war at Delagoa Bay——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member will not be in order in discussing the application, as he conceives it to be, of secret service money; the only question here is whether the House should vote a certain sum of money as secret service money. If any Department is known to have expended some of that money upon any particular object, then it may be called to account for it on the Vote for that Department. The question which can be discussed is, whether Parliament ought to authorise the Government to spend a sum of £65,000 for which they have not to account.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I do not propose to go into detail, but the object of my few remarks will be to claim a better control over the expenditure of this secret service money.

*MR. SPEAKER: But the hon. Member was proceeding to deal with the question as to whether some of this money had been properly spent upon obtaining information at Delagoa Bay, and he is not entitled to do that.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: What I am going to say and what I propose to argue is that this secret service money has been so spent as to procure false information for the Government, and that has resulted in Her Majesty's Government capturing ships in the belief that they had on board contraband of war when they had not. They failed to stop contraband of war going to the Boers, and this was in consequence of the way in which the secret service money was spent, and in regard to that I want to make some suggestions.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is quite out of order upon this Vote.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES referred to the fact that the Vote had increased from £36,000 to £65,000, and asked whether he might suggest that in expending the additional sum advice should be taken from merchants, stevedores, shippers, and others acquainted with the rules governing the shipping of cargo.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member desires to get behind my ruling. All I can say is that, should he endeavour to do so, I shall do my best to stop him.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I assure you, Sir, I should not have the presumption to entertain such a desire. But I will abandon that line of argument, having indicated what I wished to say, and confine myself to generalities. My generality is this: Although it may be quite right that a sum of £36,000 should be voted for secret service, that an extra £300 a year should be voted for the management of the fund, and that the management should be placed in the hands of officials of the Foreign Office, still it is not right to ask us to increase that sum to the extent now before us unless we have some further means of controlling the secret service money. At present we have no information whatever about it. I observe the Vote is for "foreign and other" secret service money. What is the "other" secret service money? For all I can tell, it may be spent in the United Kingdom.

*MR. SPEAKER: The manner in which the money is spent is not in issue here. If the House does not choose to entrust the Government with secret service money, that is a reason for not voting it; but if it is voted as secret service money there can be no question on the Secret Service Vote as to how it should be expended.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Then I will abandon that line of argument also. I will only say it is extremely unsatisfactory that a Vote should be presented to this House as to which we have no information given us, and as to which we can make no inquiry either before or after it is expended, even though the amount has been more than doubled. My belief is that a large proportion of this money during the present year has been expended in such a way that we ought not to vote one farthing of it. I regret that under your ruling I cannot give, as I should have been able to do, in detail my reasons for believing that. These reasons are very strong and important, and I think it is extremely doubtful whether, if we had been able to discuss the question in full, the House would have felt justified in agreeing to this important Vote.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I can conceive that in running an empire such as ours it may be necessary under certain circumstances to utilise a fund of this description, but at the same time I have some difficulty in understanding why the enormous police service in this country should not be used for the purpose for which this money is provided. The Prime Minister a short time ago accounted for the failure to obtain proper information about the Boer forces by the fact that this House voted such a small amount of secret service money. It is for us to consider whether the difference in the situation as it was and as it might have been is satisfied by the increased amount which the Government are now asking us to provide. The main object I had in rising, however, was to ask for a pledge that no portion of this money would be devoted to any purpose other than that for which we are voting it. I think we are entitled to have a straight answer to a straight question. Will the right hon. Gentleman give a pledge on behalf of the Government that no portion of this Vote will be devoted to the support of any political candidates or to the satisfaction of any political interest at any General Election which may take place? If a satisfactory answer is given, it will, to some extent, remove my opposition to this Vote.

MR. HANBURY: I am afraid I cannot give any pledge of the sort. It is extremely unlikely that the money will be used for any such purpose, but I cannot undertake to tie the hands of the Government as to the purposes to which they may devote this secret service money. The money is voted by the House to the Government without any limitation as to the purposes to which it should be applied, and I cannot make any pledge as desired by the hon. Member.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside) said he had always objected to entrusting any Government with such a large sum of money for which they were accountable to no one, and about which Parliament and the country knew absolutely nothing except that they had to pay it. With regard to the pledge asked for by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy, if it was ridiculous, as the right hon. Gentleman said, to suppose that the money would be devoted to the purpose suggested, why did not the Secretary to the Treasury at once give the assurance asked for? The Vote was for "foreign and other" purposes. Those words were very wide, but the right hon. Gentleman had deliberately made them wider still by refusing to give this definite pledge in reply to a plain question. For all he knew, therefore, he might be fighting at the next election against someone receiving money from Her Majesty's Government. He could only say that he should vote against the resolution. It was a most dangerous thing in this democratic age that £65,000, or an increase of £35,000 over last year, should be voted for secret service on the eve of a General Election. He felt sure that the right hon. Gentleman gave the best reply he could, but that reply was most unsatisfactory. They had had in a brief space a confirmation of their worst doubts about this secret service money. He ventured to say in the nations where the most secret service money was spent there were the most vamped-up crime, and there the worst deeds took place. Secret service money had always been the minister of tyranny and corruption. If the right hon. Gentleman could have relieved them of the slightest doubts they would not have put him to the trouble of a division. He should certainly vote against this resolution.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am amazed at the humiliating nature of the reply of the right hon. Gentleman. It might have been expected that the suggestion that this money, taken from the public, was to be devoted in aid of a political campaign, would had been repudiated with scorn and indignation; but Members are left to draw their own inference from the fact that the question was met in the way it was. I will make one point which I hope the public will remember, and that is that this sum of £30,000 additional voted on the eve of a General Election is exactly the amount of the cheque which Hooley sent to the responsible heads of the Tory party—a cheque kept for months in the hope that it would be cashed, and which they only decided not to cash when they had to make a virtue of necessity. What they could not get from Hooley they are now taking from the country.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): If there is any political risk to the Government connected with the next General Election it is that they may come back to the House with too great a majority; and if any secret service money is expended it should be rather devoted to the purpose of seeing the balance between parties more evenly maintained. I cannot, however, conceive that anybody could imagine that secret service money would be applied to increasing the already too large disparity between the two parties in this House. Apart from that, one would like to think that there is no possibility of any use being made of secret service money for party purposes.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: The right hon. Gentleman has surely no hesitation whatever in uttering a word in order to reassure the House and the country, whose confidence in the Government has been considerably shaken. We know that in even recent times this particular fund was applied to purposes wholly illegitimate. When the amount of this fund is being doubled for purposes mainly foreign in their character, we should have a definite pledge that not a single penny of it will be applied to political party purposes. A most reasonable appeal has been made to the right hon. Gentleman; but of course if that appeal cannot be answered we can only place one construction upon it, and must come to the conclusion—though with the greatest possible hesitation—that the Government are going to devote the secret service money to the help of their friends at the General Election. I appeal once more to the right hon. Gentleman to set our minds at rest in this matter, and I can assure him that any word he can say in that direction will be acceptable to the House and the country to-night.

MR. HANBURY: I crave the indulgence of the House to amplify what I said before. When a Vote is given by the House for a general purpose I do not think that a Minister ought to undertake to limit the use of it in any way. But I will at the same time express my own opinion that this money is given not for party, but for national purposes, and that in my opinion it would be despicable to use what is given for national purposes for party purposes. I cannot conceive that a single penny of this fund could possibly be used for party purposes.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): My hon. friend was amply justified in raising this question by the remarks which have fallen from the right hon. the Secretary to the Treasury. It seems to me almost incredible that the money should be applied in the way suggested, and I accept the statement of the right hon. Gentleman in the spirit in which he has made it. I suppose that the secret service money passes through the same phases as other Votes, and that if there is any surplus at the end of the year that amount is carried to other accounts in the usual way

MR. HANBURY: It is not; the balance is surrendered.

MR. CHANNING: The balance is appropriated to other purposes. To a certain extent this fund is not large enough at the present time. I have spent some little time in reading the Blue-book in regard to China, and I am bound to say that the information we have obtained in regard to the growth of armaments in that country has been of a very insufficient character. It seems to me that if those entrusted with the management of affairs in China had been allowed the use of this fund better information might have been obtained forecasting the present disturbances.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 277.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James

Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brigg, John
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E Durning- (Corn
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Strachey, Edward
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon E R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Hogan, James Francis
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Roberts, J. Bryn (Eifion)
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Maddison.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Thirty-first Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £33,510, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland.' "

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): It will be in the recollection of the House that I lately called attention to what I conceived to be a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the arrest on warrant of two of my constituents—Mr. O'Keefe, the manager, and Mr. Keene, the editor, of the *Kilkenny People.* They were brought before two magistrates on a charge of having published the proceedings of a public meeting which was held two months before. I may say that Mr. O'Keefe is one of the most respected citizens in Kilkenny. He was mayor of the city last year, and Mr. Keene was a member of the corporation only a few months ago. If these gentlemen committed any offence I am not for a moment going to excuse them in the least. Nor am I going to prejudge the trial in the least. But I say it is a most extraordinary procedure that they should be brought up in the manner I have described on the 1st

August for the publication in their paper on 2nd June of a resolution passed at a public meeting. I do not know the nature of that resolution, and therefore cannot defend it, but according to the information I have obtained from some of my constituents, there was a meeting of the organisation known in Ireland as the United Irish League, at Mullinahone, county Tipperary, on the 27th May, and there, it is alleged, some resolution was passed. A report was supplied to the press in the ordinary way, and was published in the *Kilkenny People.* Thanks to the action of the Crown that resolution and that paper have obtained a notoriety they never would have got otherwise. The Crown might within two months have been able to lay their hands on the people who passed the resolution and have prosecuted them, and not have dealt with the manager and editor of the paper and dragged them before two magistrates—one of them imported for the occasion. I say that this is as gross an interference with the freedom of the press as ever occurred in Ireland, and that is saying a great deal. What Minister would dare to do such a thing in any part of Great Britain? The Crown might have trusted the Kilkenny bench of magistrates, composed of gentlemen of all sorts of politics, to deal with the two gentlemen—one of whom, as I have said, was only a few months ago mayor of the city, and the other a member of the corporation. I can account for it in no way except that the Government were in hopes that Parliament would be up before attention could be called to the case. I leave it to the Attorney General for Ireland to explain how it took him two months to hatch this case, and why it is that, with the ordinary law and a variety of Coercion Acts at his hand, he has had recourse to the ancient and obsolete Whiteboy Acts. Any amount of multiplication of the offence may have taken place in the meantime since the Mullinahone meeting. I want to know why the right hon. and learned Gentleman did not act on the principle that prevention is better than cure, and why he did not step in to prevent the publication of the resolution, and why he did not visit those who passed the resolution with punishment, if passing it was illegal. Both Mr. Keene and Mr. O'Keefe are personal friends of my own, and they are not the men to evade responsibility for what they have done publicly; neither are the people of Mullinahone the people to evade responsibility. They are gentlemen who stand up to their guns and take the consequences. I say it is monstrous, instead of proceeding in the ordinary way, to drag them through the streets of the city over which one of them has presided. They might have been proceeded against by ordinary summons instead of under the Whiteboy Acts. I do not propose to detain the House at any length, but I certainly would have failed in my duty to my constituents if I had not brought before the House such a gross attempt to muzzle the press. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman is trying to destroy that paper because it has an enormous Nationalist influence in the city of Kilkenny. But if that was his object, I promise him that he has failed; he has only given it a better advertisement and a better claim on public confidence than it ever had before. What does the right hon. Gentleman expect to gain by this action? I shall feel it my duty and pleasure to go into that city and set up a branch of the Irish League now, and we will give him resolutions quite as hot as he will relish them in Kilkenny city, without waiting for them to be imported from Mullinahone.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The hon. Member has indulged in a freedom which it would be obviously most improper for me to follow, because he has criticised and entered into the validity of a charge that is now pending against these two men.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I ask to be allowed to explain that I did nothing of the kind. I did not defend the resolution or the publication of it. All I said was that the Crown had the proper means two months ago to stop it.

MR. ATKINSON: If the hon. Member did not mean to discuss the nature of the charge, I am at a loss to understand what he means when he talks of muzzling the press.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I rise to order. I did not say——

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Attorney General is putting a construction on the words of the hon. Member.

Mr. ATKINSON: It would be unbecoming on my part if I let fall one word which might tend to prejudice accused persons over whom a charge is pending and who may yet have to stand their trial. And therefore it is absolutely impossible to enter into a discussion of the motives or object of the prosecution, and why a particular mode of procedure was adopted. I do not wish to enter into the facts of the case or to discuss them. I merely say that the hon. Gentleman is entirely mistaken in thinking that the rising of Parliament had anything to do with the prosecution. These people are accused of the very serious crime—under the 3rd section of 1 and 2 William IV., c. 44—of printing certain matters tending to incite persons to unlawful combination, and to exercise intimidation upon a particular individual to do or not to do a particular thing.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: That applies only to Ireland.

Mr. ATKINSON: Of course it refers only to Ireland. That is the crime of which these gentlemen are accused, and if they are guilty of that crime it is preposterous to talk of the liberty of the press, as if there was any liberty of the press, which should be recognised, in instigating to commit a crime. The hon. Member said that the Crown ought to find out who passed the resolution. The offence was not passing the resolution, but publishing it. That is the crime of which these gentlemen are accused. The hon. Gentleman will not contend that when a man commits an offence he should not be brought before the magistrates and dealt with. One process is as legal as another, and unless it be conceded that the criminal should be allowed to choose the mode with which he should be dealt with and the tribunal before which he should come to be tried, there can be no complaint. Every care was taken, and every precaution, to avoid anything like indignity being cast upon these two gentlemen, and to save annoyance to them except what was absolutely necessary. Mr. O'Keefe himself thanked the Crown Solicitor for the kind consideration with which he was treated when he was brought before the magistrates. The hon. Gentleman said he was dragged through the streets; he might as well have said he was beheaded; no one but Mr. O'Keefe himself and the constables who effected the arrest knew that he was arrested. It is impossible at the present early stage of the case, before it has been investigated, to enter into all the reasons which induced the Crown to take the proceeding which is now objected to, but when the prosecution has come to a conclusion I shall be prepared to justify to the satisfaction of the House the steps which the Crown took in this matter.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said he did not propose to discuss the nature of the charge which was made against these two gentlemen, or the evidence in support or against of that charge. Not only would such a proceeding be an abuse of the privileges of a Member of Parliament, but it might prejudice the case of these gentlemen. The real issue between the Attorney General and the Nationalist Members was as to the particular form of procedure adopted in this case. The procedure was to bring these gentlemen up under the Whiteboy Acts. So long ago as 1880 or 1881 he introduced a Bill to repeal these Acts, which received a considerable amount of support, and most of the Members were rather shocked to find that such archaic, obsolete, and savage Acts still remained on the Statute-book. The Whiteboy Acts applied to every kind of agrarian disputes, and so savage were they in their punishments, and so insidious and furtive and dangerous, that under a Whiteboy Act a man for a very trivial offence could be sentenced to seven years penal servitude. The right hon. Gentleman had said that editors should have no different treatment to anybody else. With that proposition he agreed. He himself had filled the difficult and trying position of an editor, and had occasionally come into conflict with the rights of individuals, and he had had to pay very dearly for his real or imaginary faults. He did not complain. He was brought before a civil court, tried by a jury, found guilty, and mulcted in damages. He made no complaint in that regard; but had he been in Ireland, and had he come into conflict with the landlords, he would have been tried as a criminal, and instead of being subjected to a fine of £100 or £1,000, would have been liable to seven years penal servitude, with the additional punishment of being twice or thrice publicly whipped in the market place.

MR. ATKINSON: No, not now. That part of the Act has been repealed.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR was greatly relieved to hear that that was so; it showed that some progress was being made even in Ireland. He was grateful for it. A man could now only be sentenced to seven years penal servitude, and could not be publicly whipped. What was the genesis of these proceedings? According to general report, before many months were over, the country would be electing a new House of Commons, and the Chief Secretary's Department with others would be under discussion. The great point the right hon. Gentleman had been making was that he had been able to administer Ireland under the ordinary law, and he wanted to be able to keep up the technically correct statement that the Coercion Act had not been enforced. The result was that he had recourse to this other ancient Coercion Act. But that was a policy which would not succeed——

It being Ten of the clock, MR. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 15th February last, proceeded to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 278.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir. Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. W. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Milbank, Sir Powlett Charles J.
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest

Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry N.
Thornton Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Jones William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lewis, John Herbert
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, D. A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. T. P. O'Connor and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Resolutions Thirty-two to Thirty-four agreed to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Thirty-fifth Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £752,408, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary.' "

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 279.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas H.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessell, Captain H. Merton
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swan'a
Lonsdale, John Brownlee

Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N).
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrison, James A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. H. Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. HnE. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvon.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lewis, John Herbert
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. Pritch. (Merthyr)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, J. B. (Eifion)
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Crilly and Mr. Michael
Austin.

Resolutions Thirty-six to Forty-one agreed to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Forty-second Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.'"

The House divided:—Ayes, 179; Noes, 14. (Division List No. 280.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Ed. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount

Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hazell, Walter
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
Jones, David Brynmor (Swan.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Corn.)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Maddison, Fred.
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'r
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. M.
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Souttar, Robinson
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Steadman, William Charles
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strachey, Edward
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunton
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whiteley, H. (Asht'n-under-L.
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Hogan, James Francis
Jones, William (Carnarvon.)
M'Leod, John
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Ure, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. MacNeill and Mr.
Patrick O'Brien.

Resolutions Forty-three to Forty-six agreed to.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Forty-seventh Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £275,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901.'"

The House divided:—Ayes, 148; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 281.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol

Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke,C.W.Radcliffe(Heref'd)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cornwallis,FiennesStanleyW.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. D. T.
Cox,IrwinEdward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fergusson,RtHn. SirJ(Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Geo. J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,Rt.Hon.LordGeorge
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie(Hampstead
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence,SirE.Durning-(Corn
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'sea)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Killop, James
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrison, J. A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Rt.Hn.SirMatthewW.
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon.W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Tauntn.
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,RtHon.E.R(Bath
Wortley,Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M‘Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Ure and Mr. M‘Kenna.

Forty-eighth Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [17TH JULY] REPORT.

Deferred Resolution [18th July], "That a sum, not exceeding £267,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901," agreed to.

SUPPLY [20TH JULY].

Resolutions reported :—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS IV.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £787,503 (including a Supplementary sum of £95,434), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland."

CLASS III.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £54,767, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

Resolutions read a second time, and agreed to.

SUPPLY [27TH JULY].

Resolutions reported :—

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATE, 1900–1901.

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,500,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Additional Expenditure, mainly due to the War in South Africa and to Affairs in China, in respect of the following Army Services, viz.—

	£
Vote 1. Pay, etc., of the Army ...	3,250,000
Vote 2. Medical Establishment : Pay, etc.	350,000
Vote 5. Volunteer Corps : Pay and Allowances	500,000
Vote 6. Transport and Remounts ...	4,500,000
Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	850,000
Vote 8. Clothing Establishments and Services	100,000
Vote 9. Warlike and other Stores	500,000
Vote 10. Works, etc. : Cost (including Staff for Engineer Services)	1,060,000
Vote 12. Miscellaneous Effective Services	140,000
Vote 14. Non-Effective Services, Officers	250,000
Total ...	£11,500,000"

Resolution read a second time, and agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [2ND AUGUST].

Resolution reported :—

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, the sum of £95,234,796 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

"To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and one, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next.

MILITARY LANDS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

A Clause (County or borough council may lease land and Volunteer corps may borrow on security of lease) (*Mr. Wyndham*); brought up, and read the first and second time, amended, and added.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) (SALARIES, ETC.) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered, forthwith ; considered, and agreed to.

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Eleven of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 6*th August*, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and others).
2. Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity.
3. Customs Duties (Isle of Man).
4. Ancient Monuments Protection.
5. Oil in Tobacco.
6. Members of Local Authorities Relief.
7. Reserve Forces.
8. Volunteers.
9. Prohibition of Exportation of Arms.
10. Intermediate Education (Ireland).
11. Poor Relief (Ireland).
12. Elementary School Teachers Superannuation (Isle of Man).
13. Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey).
14. Expiring Laws Continuance.
15. Public Works Loans.
16. Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2).
17. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15).
19. Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London).
20. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
21. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).
22. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3).
23. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4).
24. London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order.
25. Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation.
26. Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order.
27. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4).
28. Post Office Sites.
29. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10).
30. Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5).
31. North British Railway.
32. Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited.
33. Blackpool, St. Annes, and Lytham Tramways.
34. East London Water.
35. Ilfracombe Improvement.
36. London and North Western Railway (Wales).
37. London and North Western Railway.
38. London County Council (Money).
39. Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway.
40. Ipswich Corporation Tramways.
41. Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel.
42. Salford Corporation.
43. Withington Urban District Council.
44. Sheffield Corporation.
45. Clontarf Urban District Council.
46. Aberdeen Police and Improvement.
47. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.
48. Bradford Corporation.
49. Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply.
50. City of London (Various Powers).
51. Croydon Tramways and Improvements.
52. Cumberland County Council (Bridges).
53. Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply.
54. Exeter Corporation.
55. Farnworth Urban District Council.
56. Halifax Corporation.
57. Lancashire Electric Power.
58. Lancaster Corporation.
59. Liverpool Corporation.
60. London County Tramways (No. 2).
61. Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation.
62. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.
63. Oldham Corporation.
64. Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water.
65. South Lancashire Tramways.
66. Wandsworth and Putney Gas.
67. West Bromwich Corporation.
68. West Ham Corporation.
69. Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation.
70. Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation.

71. Caledonian Railway.
72. Margate Corporation.
73. Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.
74. London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment).
75. Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment).
76. Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water).
77. Morley Corporation.
78. South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways.
79. Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway.
80. Sunderland Corporation.
81. Alexandra Park.
82. Bray and Enniskerry Railway.
83. Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways.
84. Coventry Corporation.
85. Devonport Corporation.
86. Dublin Corporation.
87. Great Northern Railway (Ireland).
88. Hastings Corporation.
89. Huddersfield Corporation Tramways.
90. London County Council (General Powers).
91. London County Council (Improvements).
92. London County Tramways (No. 1).
93. London United Tramways.
94. Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter).
95. Metropolitan District Railway.
96. Mid-Kent Water.
97. Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway.
98. North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.
99. Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways.
100. Rochdale Corporation.
101. Scarborough Corporation.
102. Southport and Lytham Tramroad.
103. Southport Corporation.
104. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution.
105. Taunton Corporation.
106. Tottenham Urban District Council.
107. Workington Railways and Docks.
108. Bournemouth Corporation.
109. Walsall Corporation.
110. Liverpool Overhead Railway.
111. Saint David's Railway Abandonment.
112. Fraser Settled Chattels.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY.

The Queen's Answer to the Address of Tuesday last, delivered by the Lord Steward (*E. Pembroke and Montgomery*), and read as follows:—

> "I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I unite with you in the expression of indignation and deep concern at the tidings of the assassination of my illustrious ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and I will not fail to convey to His Majesty's successor on the throne your sentiment and abhorrence at the perpetration of such a crime, and your sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy and with the Government and people of that country."

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA.

The Queen's Answer to the Address of Thursday last, delivered by the Lord Steward (*E. Pembroke and Montgomery*), and read as follows:—

> "I return you my most sincere thanks for your loyal and dutiful address, expressing sympathy with me in the great loss which I have sustained by the death of my beloved son the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The assurance of your warm interest in all that concerns my family, and the declaration of your cordial feelings towards both myself and them, are a source to me of true gratification and comfort."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

KINGSCOURT, KEADY, AND ARMAGH RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. Report, for 1899–1900—
Vol. 1. The Report;
Vol. 2. Appendix to the Report (Secondary Education);
Vol. 3. Appendix to the Report (Elementary Education).

II. Reports from University Colleges, 1900.

III. Schools in receipt of Parliamentary grants (1899–1900).

IV. Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870 (1899–1900).

V. School Board accounts and list of loans (1899–1900).

POST OFFICE.

Forty-sixth Report of the Postmaster General on the Post Office.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

Report of the progress of the, to the 31st March, 1900.

TRADE AND SHIPPING OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

Trade, shipping, railways, and economic condition generally of French Indo-China, Siam, Straits Settlements, and Malay Federated States, and the British and Dutch possessions in the East Indian Archipelago, a series of articles containing information collated from various sources including the *Board of Trade Journal.*

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).

Return for the month of December, 1899.

BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Report for June, 1900.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

I. Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1900.

II. Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1900.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).

Annual Report, for the year ended 31st March, 1900.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

I. General Abstracts showing the acreage under crops, also the number and description of live stock in each county and province, for 1899-1900.

II. Tables showing the extent in statute acres, and the produce of the crops, for the year 1900.

III. (Migratory Labourers). Report and tables relating to migratory agricultural labourers, for the year 1900.

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Report for December, 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report for the year 1900, by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B., on the inspection of higher class schools and the examination for leaving certificates.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

General Orders for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, fixing a scale of fees to be paid by petitioners and opponents of Provisional Orders, and amending the General Orders already issued, made by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons acting jointly with the Secretary of Scotland.

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF PRESTON).

Order made by the Council of the borough of Preston, in the county of Lancaster, re-dividing the borough into convenient polling districts for the purposes of Parliamentary elections.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853 TO 1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted by Her Majesty to Emily de Charante Lester, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting the said Emily de Charante

Lester to be at large, on condition that she enter St. Mary's Home, Wantage, Berkshire.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

EXECUTORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

LUNACY BOARD (SCOTLAND) (SALARIES, ETC.) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

NAVAL RESERVE BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

MILITARY LANDS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to.

MONEY-LENDING BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, according to Order.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD: My Lords, in moving that the Commons Amendments be agreed to, I may point out that, though numerous, they do not materially affect the Bill. My hon. friends the Attorney General and Mr. Russell, who had charge of the Bill in the House of Commons, have had a very difficult task in carrying it through that House, but they have done their utmost to maintain the Bill in a condition which will not cause it to be less efficient than when it left your Lordships' House. During the passage of the Bill through this House the Government, and, I think, every Member, were anxious that none of the provisions should interfere with legitimate trading in money, and safeguards were put into the Bill with this object. Some of the Amendments which have been made in the House of Commons are not such as I myself should have suggested, because they remove in part the safeguards which were inserted by your Lordships. But the removal of these safeguards was moved in the House of Commons by a gentleman representing the banking interest, and, having regard to the origin of the Amendments, I do not think they ought to be rejected. The Bill will give considerable benefit to those who deserve protection, and cannot materially injure those who carry on a legitimate business.

Commons Amendments agreed to.

COUNTY COURTS (INVESTMENT OF DEPOSITS) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Viscount TEMPLETOWN: My Lords, the Amendment standing in my name to Clause 2 is intended to remove doubts which have arisen as to whether the summary jurisdiction proceedings which were available for the recovery of poor rate before the passing of the Irish Local Government Act of 1898 can still be legally adopted. In consequence of these doubts, magistrates in Ireland are beginning to refuse to make orders at petty sessions enabling a poor-rate collector to seize a defendant's goods. They prefer to wait for some clear statement of the law, by Parliament or by a court competent to decide the question, rather that run the risk of making themselves liable to an action for damages by the defendant. The doubt as to a magistrate's present powers are due to the fact that the Irish Poor Relief Act of 1838 (Section 73) directs that the poor rate—

> "shall and may be collected and levied, sued for and recovered, by such and the same ways and means as the grand jury cess, or the money applotted on the several persons liable to pay the same may be collected and levied."

At that time (1838) the ways and means for recovering grand jury cess were contained in Section 152 of the Grand Jury Act of 1836. Subsequently these powers were extended in 1850, by 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 82. Additional powers for the collection of poor rate only were also conferred by subsequent Acts, which are mentioned in a footnote on pages 34 and 35 of Mooney's Compendium of the Irish

Poor Law. It appears, however, that the Irish Local Government Act of 1898 has repealed Section 152 of the Grand Jury Act of 1836 and the whole of the Grand Jury Act of 1850, but has left unrepealed Section 73 of the Poor Relief Act of 1838 and the Acts relating to the recovery of poor rate mentioned in Mooney's Compendium. It is contended by some that the provisions of the Grand Jury Acts are only repealed in respect of the recovery of grand jury cess, and that the provisions of Section 38 of the Interpretation Act, 1889, would operate to keep them alive for the recovery of poor rate. On the other hand, it is contended that Parliament must be held to have had a special object in view in absolutely repealing some of the powers formerly in force for the recovery of poor rate, and leaving others absolutely unrepealed. As the matter stands, magistrates cannot reasonably be expected to decide such a doubtful question at their personal risk, and the object of this Amendment is to provide them with a definite statement as to their legal powers in such cases.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, after line 14, to add, a new sub-section as follows; '(2.) For the purpose of raising the amounts required to be raised by Section 51 of the principal Act, every collector of poor rate shall be deemed to have had and shall have the same powers to collect, levy, sue for, and recover all money which he has been or shall be authorised to levy under his warrant as he would have had if said principal Act had not passed.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, I did not like to interrupt the noble Lord in the course of his speech, but the Amendment is out of order. This is not a Bill brought in to amend generally the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898, but to amend certain specific sections, and the topic referred to by the noble Viscount is not one connected with any of the sections with which the Bill is concerned. I may add that my right hon. friends the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General have considered the point, and do not think the sub-section at all necessary.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: Will the noble and learned Lord say whether the magistrates in Ireland are safe at this moment in making such orders?

LORD ASHBOURNE: I cannot give a legal opinion as to a matter which it is for the Courts to decide.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

THE EARL OF PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY called attention to the fact that the first section of this clause provided that Section 54 of the principal Act—

"shall be deemed to have had effect as from the gale day last before the appointed day under that Act in the case of any tenancy one of the gale days of which is the twenty-fifth day of March."

The gale day might not always take place on the 25th day of March, and he therefore moved an Amendment to omit the words "the twenty-fifth day of" and to insert "in."

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out 'the twenty-fifth day of' and to insert 'in.'"—(*The Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery*).

LORD ASHBOURNE: Everyone knows that the general gale day is the 25th day of March, but there are some cases in which the date differs, and this Amendment will deal with those cases. I am quite willing to accept it.

Amendment agreed to.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: My Lords, I beg to move the insertion of a new subsection in Clause 3. The object of this Amendment is to enable a middleman to obtain from his superior landlord a reduction or allowance in respect of rates if the middleman's tenants have obtained such a reduction or allowance from him under the provisions of Section 54 of the principal Act. The middleman is entitled to this privilege if or so far as his holding is not agricultural land. For instance, if his holding is in a rural district, he is entitled in respect of the buildings, but not in respect of the land. No satisfactory reason can apparently be shown for this distinction.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, after line 18, to insert a new sub-section as follows:—'(2) In Sub-section

4 of said Section 54 the words "which is not agricultural land" shall be and are hereby repealed.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE: My noble friend has stated very clearly the grounds upon which he moves this Amendment, but I doubt if he quite realises what its result would be if your Lordships adopted it. I suppose there was no question more discussed, when the principal Bill was under consideration, than that of the inclusion and exclusion of agricultural land; and in my opinion there are wise and obvious reasons for making the distinction to which he has referred. The Amendment would have the effect of transferring the benefit of the agricultural grant from the landlord to the middleman, which I do not think is generally desired. I trust that my noble friend will not press his Amendment.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: If the noble and learned Lord's argument is that landlords are not to move anything which is to the advantage of the tenants, of course I withdraw the Amendment.

LORD ASHBOURNE: That is not what I said, and I do not think any such impression can be drawn from my remarks.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY: The next Amendment stands in my name. It is drawn with the object of removing ambiguity in the clauses of the principal Act, and it has the sanction of those in charge of the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, at end, to insert 'Provided that where a person receiving and paying rent in respect of the same holding would not, if the principal Act or this Act had not passed, have been entitled to deduct more than half the poor rate from the rent paid by him, the reduction or deduction which may be made under the said Sub-section (4), either as extended or not, shall be calculated on the assumption that the occupier was entitled to deduct half the standard amount for poor rate in the standard financial year.'"—(*The Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE: I have consulted my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary, and he thinks this Amendment would be an improvement to the Bill. Personally, I am not aware that there is any serious ambiguity in the principal Act, but I think the Amendment will meet a point which it is desirable should be made plain.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4:—

LORD TEMPLETOWN: My Lords, the provisions of Clause 4 are understood to be intended to facilitate the raising of rates, or portions of rates, which represent small and practically uncollectable fractions of a penny, in respect of the "excluded charges" mentioned in Sections 56 and 57 of the Irish Local Government Act of 1898. These excluded charges consist of expenses for extra constabulary, compensation for criminal injuries, charges for railways, tramways, harbours, piers, or quays under various Acts, for works under the Relief of Distress Acts, and navigation and public health charges. In these cases the clause proposes that where it would be necessary, for the purpose of raising the exact amount of any charge, to make a rate in the pound less than a farthing, or not being a multiple of a farthing, the rate in the pound actually made for that purpose shall be a farthing, or the next highest multiple of a farthing, as the case may be. So far, the provisions of the clause are not open to objection, and the general object in view is entirely to be commended. The clause, however, proceeds to provide that the surplus, or sum in excess of the amount actually required, which would in this way be raised in every case, is to be carried to the credit of the district fund of the county district comprising the area on which the rate is made. In other words, it is to be applied in aid or reduction of the general district poor rate. There would be no objection to this if all these charges, like the general district poor rate, were payable by the occupier, because the surplus or excess sum paid by him in one form would be given back to him in another form. The landlord, however, has hitherto in most cases been required to allow the occupier a proportion, usually one-half, of any rate paid by the latter in respect of railway, tramway, harbour, navigation, and public health charges; and under Section 54 (9) of the principal Act the landlord must continue to make these allowances so long as the existing tenancy in the holding continues, or until a new statutory term therein begins. It seems, therefore, only fair that every surplus raised in respect of such rates should be so applied as to secure that both owner and occupier should derive equal benefit from it. The Amendment which I am about to move proposes that every such surplus should be carried to a separate account, and applied towards future levies of the same or a similar charge. The Amendment is also so worded as to permit the Local Government Board to sanction the raising of an extra rate representing more than the next highest farthing in the pound, thus providing a fund sufficient to pay the whole of the present levy, and also one or more future levies of the charge. This would be a convenient and economical course where the amount required for a single levy represents a rate of a small fraction in the pound. Further, the Amendment is so drawn as to permit of the clause being applied to charges leviable off the county at large, as well as those chargeable to county districts and other smaller areas. Some county-at-large excluded charges—for instance, for extra police or for a criminal injury—represent such fractional rates in the pound that it is impossible to raise a single levy for them. It may be said that as any surplus raised under the clause as it stands in the Bill would represent a rate of less than a farthing in the pound, the owner would suffer only small damage by the surplus being credited to the general district poor rate. But this is not the only question at issue, for the application of the surplus in the way proposed in the clause would not only result in relieving the tenant of any payment whatever in respect of many of the smaller excluded charges, but would actually make them a source of profit to him at the expense of the landlord. For example, many of the public health charges referred to in Section 54 (9) of the principal Act are for small sums, and, even when several of them are consolidated under an Order made by the Local Government Board for Ireland on the 15th of May, 1899, each levy in respect of them would not represent a rate of half a farthing in the pound on the county district. If, however, you raise a rate of a farthing in the pound to pay half that amount, the landlord must allow half the amount raised—not half the amount of the rate, but half the amount raised—to the tenant; and if the surplus is then, as proposed by Clause 4, carried to the credit of the general district poor rate, it is evident that the practical effect is to make the landlord pay the whole amount required for these charges, and to exempt the tenant from any chargeability in respect of them. Similarly, if these charges represented a rate of only one quarter of a farthing in the pound, and if you raise a rate of a farthing for them in each levy, and apply the excess amount in the way proposed in the clause, you will make the landlord allow to the tenant on each levy a sum equal to double the total rate required to pay the whole charge, and the tenant will not only escape any payment in respect of it, but his general district poor rate will be reduced at the landlord's expense by a poundage rate equivalent to a full year's levy of the excluded charge in question. This seems to show that the proposal in the clause can hardly be said to work fairly to the landlord's interest.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 28, after 'or' to leave out all the words to the end of line 31, and to insert 'any higher rate approved of by the Local Government Board; and any sum in excess of such exact amount shall be carried to credit of a separate account, and shall be applied towards paying any future levy or levies that may be required to be raised off the same area in respect of the same or any similar charge. Provided always that when any such charge is no longer required to be raised, any balance then remaining to credit of such separate account shall be transferred—(*a*) To credit of the County Fund if it was originally raised off the county at large; or (*b*) If it was originally raised off any smaller area, then to credit of the District Fund of any county district or districts in which such smaller area is comprised.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

THE EARL OF ARRAN: I confess that this Bill has taken me somewhat unawares. Having just returned from Scotland, I have had no time to look into it, and therefore I can only speak with regard to it at third hand. I have had a paper handed to me explaining the working of the clause, and it certainly does seem that it would be much better if the noble and learned Lord would withdraw the Bill for the present session. It is scarcely right to bring forward a Bill of such importance, and containing clauses seriously affecting landlords and tenants, at such a late period of the session, when there is so little opportunity for discussion. I am told that the working of the clause will be as follows:—If the sum to be raised represented one twentieth of a penny—a common case—then by raising a farthing, that is, five twentieths, you raise five times the necessary amount each time, and, as the landlord must allow the tenant one-half the amount raised in the cases—which are very numerous—mentioned in Section 54 (9), he will have on every levy to pay five times the amount intended by the principal Act to be paid by him, or, in other words, two and a half times the total annual charge required to be raised. I do not think this is a provision that would commend itself to your Lordships, and I would therefore appeal to my noble and learned friend to withdraw the Bill.

Lord ASHBOURNE: The suggestion of my noble friend is one which obviously the Government cannot accept. This Bill has been brought in for the purpose of making the machinery of the Local Government Act of 1898 work more smoothly and in a more businesslike way, and it is one which must be regarded from a practical point of view. The speeches of the noble Viscount behind me and of the noble Lord who has just sat down convey an idea of magnitude quite out of proportion to the intention of the clause. The particular matter dealt with in Clause 4 is this: Whenever the rate or tax to be raised is only a fraction of a farthing, a rate of a farthing is to be levied, and the balance carried forward in a particular way. The farthing is fixed upon as being the smallest coin we use and for convenience of collection. The Amendment would be infinitely more dangerous, because it contains no limit whatever. It would enable the limit of a farthing to be exceeded, and would also necessitate the keeping of a separate account in respect of every area in the country, however small. The matter has been very carefully considered, and the clause is framed in a way that is deemed to be most workable. I trust, therefore, that the noble Viscount will withdraw the Amendment.

Viscount TEMPLETOWN: I am afraid I must press my Amendment. The noble and learned Lord said the object of the clause was to make the machinery of the Act work more smoothly, but it is to do so at the expense of the landlords. The magnitude of this clause has been questioned by the noble and learned Lord. I admit that a fraction of a farthing is not a very large sum, but when you come to multiply it on thousands of tenancies it becomes a serious matter. If the bookkeeping qualifications of the officers of the county councils are not sufficient to enable them to keep a separate account for this money, then the sooner more efficient officers are appointed the better.

Lord ASHBOURNE: I have given my noble friend fairly, and I hope courteously, the reasons that were in the Government's mind when the clause was drafted, and I hope the Amendment will not be persisted in. It is obvious that if you deal with fractions of a farthing it will be impossible to work the rate. Since the Amendment was placed upon the Paper it has been carefully considered with an earnest desire to arrive at the best arrangement possible, and the Government are advised that the clause as it stands will work infinitely better than the Amendment, which, personally, I do not think would work at all. If the noble Lord persists in his Amendment the only result will be that either the prorogation will have to be postponed or else the Bill will be wrecked for this session.

Viscount TEMPLETOWN: I must take a division on the Amendment.

Lord ASHBOURNE: I do not think my noble friend contemplates all the possibilities of a division. The Government cannot give way on a Bill of this kind, and a division would work out no practical result. It would simply lead to considerable delay and misunderstanding. Therefore, I hope my noble friend will reconsider the matter, and be satisfied with the discussion which has taken place.

Viscount TEMPLETOWN: I must insist on my Amendment.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of Halsbury): I would suggest that what we are doing is not altogether dignified. We all of us know that if the Amendment is pressed and a division challenged, the whole thing, by the Standing Orders of the House, will have to be adjourned till to-morrow. If there was a possibility of any practical result following, that might be justified; but when your Lordships assemble to-morrow we shall be in exactly the same position. Precisely the same thing will occur, and we might go on in that way the whole week until the session comes to an end summarily. I do suggest that it is not quite to the dignity of the House to do that.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: Is there any reason why the clause should not be withdrawn altogether?

LORD ASHBOURNE: Well, I have no option. In the exigencies of my position, and under pressure, I will withdraw the clause, but I cannot say what will be done elsewhere.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: With the best intentions in the world, I am sorry the position is one that has led to an *impasse*.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I have endeavoured to meet the noble Viscount in the fairest possible way. He must recognise that time is of priceless value at this period of the session. The Bill was put down for Friday, but my noble friend was not in attendance, and it was in deference to an intimation made to me to the effect that he desired to make a statement that I postponed it till to-day, in order to give him an opportunity of doing so. I did everything that was humanly possible at this period of the session to enable the Bill to be discussed and examined.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 struck out of the Bill.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendments reported, and Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, this Bill was originally introduced by a private Member in the other House, but on account of the importance of the matters at issue, it has received the sanction of the Government, and comes up to your Lordships' House with the Government's support. The object of the Bill is to amend the Tramways (Ireland) Acts, 1860 to 1896, and to assimilate legislation relating to light railways and tramways in Ireland to that already existing in England.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I would point out that this Bill has only just been printed, and it is quite impossible, therefore, for the House to know what is in it. I only succeeded in getting a copy a quarter of an hour before the House met. I do not wish to place any impediment in the way of the Bill passing, if the noble Earl assures us that there are no matters of importance involved.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: It is most unreasonable on the part of the Government to bring forward at the end of the session a Bill of this important character. I think it would be extremely advisable to postpone it until next session.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My noble friend does not indicate any particular ground of objection. The fact that the Bill comes up from the House of Commons at the end of the session cannot, I think, be urged as a reason for postponing it till another session. If there is any point my noble friend wishes to have explained I shall be glad to hear it.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: My principal objection is to Clause 3 of the Bill. Section 43 of the Tramways (Ireland) Act, 1860, prohibits a house wholly built of stone or brick with lime, or any of the outbuildings or offices thereof, or any part of any yard, haggard, orchard, or plantation attached or belonging thereto, from being taken for the purpose of the undertaking without the consent in writing of the owner respectively. This clause will repeal that portion of Section 43 if an Order in Council is obtained to prevent it so applying. I think this is a very important point.

LORD ASHBOURNE: Clause 3 of this Bill has to be read in connection with the provision in the existing legislation which it seeks to amend. Section 43 of the Tramways (Ireland) Act, 1860, provides that—

> "Nothing in this Act, or in any Order under it, shall be deemed to authorise to be taken for the purposes of the undertaking any mansion house, or house wholly built of stone or brick, with lime, or any of the outbuildings or offices thereof, or any part of any yard, haggard, garden, orchard, or plantation attached or belonging thereto, or any part of any deer park or other park or demesne, or planted or ornamental walk, drive, approach, or avenue, or of any ground ornamentally planted, or of any lawn or bleach green, without the consent in writing of the owner thereof respectively, although the same may lie within such distance as in the last preceding section is mentioned."

Clause 3 of the Bill now before your Lordships is as follows—

> "Any Order in Council under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts, 1860 to 1896, may provide that so much of Section 43 of the Tramways (Ireland) Act, 1860, as prohibits a house wholly built of stone or brick with lime, or any of the outbuildings or offices thereof, or any part of any yard, haggard, orchard, or plantation attached to or belonging thereto, from being taken for the purpose of the undertaking without the consent in writing of the owner respectively, shall not apply to the tramway authorised by the Order."

This clause does not authorise to be taken for the purposes of the undertaking any mansion house, or any part of any deer park or other park or demesne, or planted or ornamental walk, drive, approach, or avenue, or of any ground ornamentally planted, or of any lawn or bleach green without the consent in writing of the owner respectively. These are all left untouched, and cannot be meddled with without the sanction of the owner. Your Lordships will at once appreciate the wide distinction. This Bill deals with matters which are obviously of much smaller importance, and the Privy Council, before whom the spplication will come, will closely examine the evidence with an earnest desire to do only that which is just and fair.

The Earl of Arran.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: But Clause 3 gives power to the promoters of a tramway under the Bill to take a plantation attached to a house without the sanction of the owner.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I would point out that, as all schemes must be sanctioned by the Privy Council, the rights of the owners are safeguarded.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: I do not think the explanation of my noble and learned friend is sufficient——

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I am afraid I must interpose. This is the Second Reading of the Bill, and the noble Lord has made three speeches.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith; House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

THE EARL OF ARRAN: With the permission of your Lordships I will move to amend the clause by striking out the words "or plantation attached to or belonging thereto."

Amendment moved—

> "To omit from 'orchard' in line 11, to 'from' in line 12."—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I take it that, as the law now stands, any person owning a plantation, haggard, or orchard has the right, before that plantation or any part of it can be taken for the purpose of constructing a tramway, of being fully heard before the Privy Council. If he is dissatisfied he has an appeal from the decision of the Privy Council. The Amendment which my noble friend proposes would, as I understand it, have this result: that anyone owning a tiny corner of a plantation, with half a dozen stunted trees upon it, could absolutely put a stop to a useful tramway scheme by withholding his consent in writing to the scheme. That is an exaggerated precaution. I think those whose interests the noble Earl has at heart are amply protected by the law as it stands.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: The case instanced by the noble Marquess is an extreme one, and one not likely to occur. I have in my mind a long public road, fringed with plantations, which is too narrow to allow of a tramway being constructed. Under the clause the whole four or five miles of plantation running along the road might be destroyed for the purpose of the tramway.

LORD ASHBOURNE: Such a case would come under that part of Section 43 which is left untouched.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: I understand that would be so in the case of a plantation within a demesne, but a plantation outside a demesne would, I think, be affected by this clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived; Amendments reported; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SUPPLEMENTAL WAR LOAN BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2^a; Committee negatived; Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 6th August, 1900.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, being returned—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (*See page* 741.)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

KINGSCOURT, KEADY, AND ARMAGH RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, in pursuance of the Order of the House of 31st July, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Amendments to—

Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water) Bill [Lords],
Morley Corporation Bill [Lords],
South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords],
without amendment.

PETITIONS.

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Gourock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Shoreditch; and Ulverston; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Fenwick; and Dunrossness; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (MONMOUTHSHIRE) BILL.

Petition from New Wortley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account [presented 3rd August] to be printed. [No. 343.]

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION (EXPENSES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 28th April, 1899; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344.]

DEATHS FROM STARVATION, OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 2nd March; *Mr. Talbot*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 345.]

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 8th March; *Mr. Wharton*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 346.]

BENEFICES ACT, 1898.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 25th May; *Lord Hugh Cecil*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347.]

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 5th July; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348.]

PRISON OFFICERS' PENSIONS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 6th July; *Mr. John Hutton*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349.]

DIOCESAN REGISTRIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 2nd August; *Mr. H. D. Greene*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350.]

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF PRESTON).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Preston, in the county of Lancaster, redividing the Borough into convenient Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence granted to Emily de Charante Lester, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter Saint Mary's Home, Wantage, Berkshire [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).

Copy presented, of Return for the month of December, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Report for the half-year ended 30th June, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Copy presented, of Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Copy presented, of Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Annual Report for the year ended 31st March, 1900, with appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Tables showing the extent in statute acres, the produce of crops for the year 1900, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of General Abstracts showing the acreage under crops, also the number and description of live stock in each County and Province for 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) (MIGRATORY LABOURERS).

Copy presented, of Report and Tables relating to Migratory Agricultural Labourers for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Banking and Railway Statistics (Ireland) to 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TEA AND COFFEE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd August; *Mr. Ritchie*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Reports from University Colleges participating in the Grant of £25,000 made by Parliament for "University Colleges in Great Britain" (1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education, with Appendices, 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Statement showing (1) Schools in receipt of Parliamentary Grants; (2) Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, 1870; and (3) School Board Accounts and List of Loans for the year 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1900 by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B., on the Inspection of Higher Class Schools in Scotland, and the Examination for Leaving Certificates [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE.

Copy presented, of the Forty-sixth Report of the Postmaster General [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (County of Flint).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 5th May, 1897; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. [No. 352.]

LUNATICS AND EPILEPTICS IN WORKHOUSES.

Return ordered, "of the number of (*a*) Lunatics, and (*b*) Epileptics, not classed as insane, who were inmates of workhouses in England and Wales on the 1st day of January, 1900, showing the numbers admitted from each administrative county and county borough."—(*Mr. John Hutton.*)

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK).

Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Brecknock, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (6), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF CARDIGAN.)

Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Cardigan, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (7), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF PEMBROKE).

Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Pembroke, particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862–5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (10), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF RADNOR).

Copy ordered, "of Digest of the Endowed Charities in the county of Radnor, the particulars of which are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, but are not recorded in the General Digest of Endowed Charities for that county, 1862-5 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 91 (11), of Session 1869)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Return ordered, "of the Correspondence between the Board of Education and the Farnworth School Attendance Authority relating to the Employment of certain Children of School Age who had been granted certificates of partial exemption by the said authority."—(*Mr. Ernest Gray.*)

POST OFFICE MAIL CONTRACT (SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA).

Copy ordered, "of Contract, dated 1st June, 1900, entered into with the Pacific

Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of Mails between Liverpool and South and Central America, and the Falkland Islands, and of the Treassury Minute thereon."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353.]

VACCINATION.

Return ordered, "of Statement showing in respect of each Poor Law Union in England and Wales (1) the number of Certificates of Conscientious Objection under Section 2 of the Vaccination Act, 1898, received by the Vaccination Officers, which were dated between the 1st day of January and the 31st day of March, the 1st day of April and the 30th day of June, the 1st day of July and the 30th day of September, and the 1st day of October and the 31st day of December respectively in the year 1899; and (2) the number of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccination received by the Vaccination Officers during the periods between the 1st day of January and the 30th day of June, and the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December respectively in the years 1898 and 1899."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 354.]

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—THE ADVANCE ON PEKING.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is now in a position to give the House any information as to the advance of the British and other relief forces towards Peking, and also with regard to the present position of the Ministers and other Europeans in Peking.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No, Sir. Communications both from the Legations and from the relief force have come to us by runner and by despatch-boat, and we have no information from either later than that we have given to the House.

AUSTRALASIAN CONTINGENTS FOR CHINA.

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can state the strength and composition of the Colonial and Naval force despatched to China by the Australian colonies; whether the officers and men of this force will form part of the navy on the China station and be under the Admiral; whether they will be available for service afloat and ashore as he may determine; and under what Discipline Act will this force serve; and whether the cost of this colonial naval force will be borne by the Imperial or the Colonial Exchequer; and, if by the Imperial Exchequer, whether it will be a naval charge.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The Colonial and Naval force about to be despatched to China by the Australasian colonies consists of 200 officers and men from Victoria, 300 officers and men from New South Wales, and the "Protector" gunboat with a crew of 112 officers and men from South Australia. This force will be under the Naval Discipline Act, and available for service afloat or ashore as the admiral may determine. The cost of the Colonial force will be partly borne by the Imperial and partly by the Colonial Exchequers.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): What is to be done with the men who go out without any ships?

MR. GOSCHEN: They are to be sent out by transport, and will be available wherever wanted.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT'S PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if it has come to his knowledge that papers showing that the Transvaal Government had previous to the Jameson raid been preparing for war were taken away to Europe by the Boer delegates, rumour of such a disposition of papers being current in South Africa.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have not heard the rumours, and I have no information on the subject.

SETTLEMENT OF AUSTRALIANS AND CANADIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether directions have been, or will be, given that no undue inducements should be held out to the members of the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand contingents to settle in South Africa at the close of the war, having regard to the urgent need of young men for the development of these colonies, and the general understanding that the contingents would return to their respective colonies at the cessation of hostilities.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It is not contemplated by Her Majesty's Government to treat members of colonial contingents differently from members of other corps. I have already informed the House that an Inter-Departmental Committee has been formed to consider the subject, but as it is evident that full inquiry on the spot will also be necessary, I propose to appoint a small Committee, consisting of Mr. Arnold-Forster, M.P., chairman, and two local members, who will examine into the subject in South Africa and report fully upon it to Her Majesty's Government.

PRIVATIONS OF GENERAL RUNDLE'S FORCE.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what there was in the nature of the country or in the operations involved to necessitate the sufferings and privations to which the British troops under General Rundle have been exposed; who was responsible for the victualling of these troops, and what was the base from which they were supplied; whether quantities of provisions were stacked at country sidings while these troops were starving; and whether steps have now been taken to supply these troops with adequate food and other necessaries.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.) (for Mr. WYNDHAM): No official information has reached the War Office in regard to the reported privations of General Rundle's force. Such details of the campaign are not reported to the War Office, and the Secretary of State does not propose to make any inquiries of Lord Roberts on the subject.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to give notice that, in consequence of the hon. Gentleman's reply, I will, on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, call attention to this matter, which is exciting the most painful interest in the public mind.

BOER PRISONERS AT PRETORIA—ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP MAGAZINE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any information has yet reached the War Office of the sentences of death alleged to have been passed on Captain Tossel and Mr. Solomon Gillingham, of Pretoria; if so, what was the charge, by what tribunal were they tried, what was the sentence passed, what date was fixed for its execution, and has it been carried into effect yet, or when is it intended to be carried into effect.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): No, Sir.

CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICERS IN SOUTH AFRICA—ALLOWANCES.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that civil medical officers in South Africa do not get colonial allowance, though such allowance is allowed to every other person now serving in the British Army in South Africa; and whether he will take steps to remedy this state of affairs.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The civil medical practitioners engaged for service in South Africa are paid according to the special terms for which they engaged—namely, pay at £1 a day, field allowance at 3s. 6d. a day, servant's allowance, Government horse with forage, and field rations while in the field, with a gratuity of two months pay at the expiration of their contract. They accordingly receive higher emoluments than many of the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The Secretary of State for War sees no reason for making any addition to their emoluments.

CODE CABLEGRAMS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. LAFONE (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, having regard to the fact that code messages can be sent to South Africa *via* Delagoa Bay, whether it will now be possible to allow mercantile messages to be sent in code to Natal, the code employed being previously submitted and sanctioned by the competent authorities.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The question of relaxing the existing regulations in Cape Colony and Natal, which have been in force since November, 1899, is engaging the attention of the Government and of the civil and military authorities in those colonies, and it is hoped that an announcement may shortly be made on the subject.

THE KERRY MILITIA.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kerry I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that complaints by letter and otherwise have been recently made by members of the Kerry Militia, now stationed at Gosport; and whether he will inquire into the alleged ill-treatment and punishment inflicted on men of the Kerry Militia owing to their unwillingness to volunteer for service in South Africa.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The Secretary of State for War is not aware of any complaint by letter or otherwise from any men of the Kerry Militia. As all soldiers are by regulation given facilities for making their complaints through the authorised channels, there is no necessity for any inquiry.

PRIVATE GILLEN, ROYAL IRISH RIFLES.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that Private R. Gillen, No. 3216, Royal Irish Rifles, who was, on the completion of six years service, discharged home with good character from the Finner Camp, Ballyshannon, on Monday, the 23rd instant, was denied the full annual bounty, and can he explain for what reason; and why Gillen's daily pay was stopped from the Wednesday previous to his discharge; and, as this man is the sole support of his mother and sister, will the stoppages be made good to him.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The man was paid up to the 22nd July, the date of expiration of his service. Authority has been given for the payment of bounty which was withheld at the time of his discharge because the amount he was to receive was uncertain.

PURCHASE OF CANNON ABROAD.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he will state the number of cannon purchased in Germany during the present year, and of what type.

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS (for Mr. WYNDHAM): I have already stated that it is against the public interest to give information at the present time as regards purchases of war material.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Not even from Birmingham?

VOLUNTEERS IN THE G.P.O.—CAMPING ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postal authorities have issued an order stating that it will be impossible to allow leave of absence to any of the men of the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps, who are working in the Inland Section or the E.C. District Office, to attend camp; whether men belonging to other corps have been refused leave in a similar manner; and whether, having regard to the recent appeal made by the Government to employers, urging them to use every means in their power to give leave to their workmen for the purpose of attendance at the various camps of instruction, he will in some way provide for these men to have leave in order that they may make themselves efficient in drill and other duties as Volunteers.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster General regrets that it has not been found possible to allow leave of absence to all the men of the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps engaged in the Inland branch of the Circulation Office and in the East Central District who have applied to attend camps, and it has also been found necessary to refuse a certain number of men belonging to other corps. This is partly due to the great pressure of work in the offices in question at the present time owing to the recent removal to Mount Pleasant, to the number of men who have been withdrawn for service at the front, and to the impossibility of obtaining a sufficient number of substitutes without imposing an undue strain on those members of the staff who are not Volunteers and imperilling the proper performance of their duties. It may be added that there are at the present moment between 300 and 400 men belonging to the 24th Middlesex in camp, and a further number will be similarly engaged next week.

SUBMARINE VESSELS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he can state the amount of the estimated expenditure on submarine vessels (in addition to those already built) for which provision is made in the latest Navy Estimates of the United States and France respectively.

MR. GOSCHEN: During the financial year beginning 1st July, 1900, the Secretary of the United States has been authorised to contract for five submarine boats at a price not exceeding 170,000 dollars each. During the financial year beginning 1st January, 1900, the French Estimates provide £140,292 for submarine boats.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Do the French figures represent the total expenditure or only the estimates for the year?

MR. GOSCHEN: The estimates for the year.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): Arising out of the answer, may I ask whether my right hon. friend will say whether the Board of Admiralty are dealing with this matter?

MR. GOSCHEN: I do not think the question does arise out of my answer.

DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE—NEW ZEALAND PROPOSALS.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has official cognizance of the fact that the Premier of New Zealand has submitted to the Parliament of that colony proposals for providing naval and military forces for the general service of the Empire in war; whether they involve joint responsibility and expenditure by the Imperial Government and the Governments of Australasian colonies; what is the general outline of such proposals; and what has been the action, if any, taken by the Parliament of New Zealand upon them.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have received through the Governor of New Zealand a memorandum by his Premier on the subject to which the hon. Member refers. It is in the nature of suggestions for discussion by a conference of Imperial and Colonial representatives, and not of a definite scheme. It is too long to summarise in answer to a question, but a fairly accurate summary will be found in a Reuter's message which appeared in the morning papers of 23rd July.† I have no information as to what action, if any, has been taken upon it by the New Zealand Parliament.

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† The following is the Reuter's telegram referred to:—"WELLINGTON, July 21.—Mr. Seddon, Premier and Minister of Defence, to-day submitted a scheme to the New Zealand Parliament having reference to the harbour defences, to the defence forces, and to the permanent Imperial Reserves. The scheme provides for an Imperial Reserve force of 10,000 good riders and shots in New Zealand for Imperial or Colonial service within defined limits. Mr. Seddon is of opinion that the scheme is feasible, and that if it commends itself to Australia, and if a number should there be enrolled relative to the number and population of New Zealand, a Reserve of 50,000 could be formed ready for Imperial service at any time. The scheme provides for one month's drill annually. The total maintenance of 50,000 men would cost £1,000,000, and if drill is not required the cost would be £500,000 a year, to be borne by the Colonial and Imperial Governments on a population or other equitable basis, the first cost of equipment and munitions to be found by the Imperial Government, the colonies paying 3 per cent. thereon. In calculating the interest, the difference between the rate at which the colony could raise the money and the rate at which it could be obtained by the Imperial authorities would form a sinking fund to pay off the principal within a reasonable time. Mr. Seddon recommends that the naval branch of the Reserves and Volunteers should be drilled on the cruisers of the Australasian squadron

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—DATE OF PROCLAMATION.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is in a position to indicate the date on which the Royal Proclamation calling the Australian Commonwealth into being will be issued.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Until the result of the referendum in Western Australia has been dealt with by the Parliament of the colony I am not in a position to advise Her Majesty as to the date for the issue of the Proclamation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S DECISION.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any official information as to the result of the Federal referendum in Western Australia.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have received a telegram from the Acting Governor stating that the referendum in Western Australia has resulted in the adoption of the Commonwealth Bill by a large majority.

CONGO — BRITISH - BELGIAN BOUNDARIES—ALLEGED BELGIAN OUTRAGES.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of the Foreign Office has been called to the statements made by Mr. Grogan in a recent paper read to the Royal Geographical Society, in which he says that in the valley above the Albert Nyanza the natives had been raided and shot down, and women and cattle carried off, by the Congo State soldiers, and had fled to the marshes, and that, as the territory is British, the charge against the Belgians is a serious one; and that three distinct tribes had told the same story, some of which were sixty miles from others; whether the Foreign Office had previous information as to failure to respect the British frontier on the part of the Congo State; and whether inquiry will be made.

MR. BRODRICK: Information as to violations of the frontier has reached the Foreign Office. The facts are admitted by the State authorities, who have lost no time in expressing their regret, and will punish the offenders severely if the offence is brought home to them.

DOUBTFUL MARRIAGES AT DALTON-LE-DALE, SUNDERLAND.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that anxiety exists in the parish of Dalton-le-Dale, Sunderland, in consequence of the doubtful legality of 334 marriages which have been solemnised in the old parish church between the years 1876 and 1879, whereas they should have taken place in the new church; whether he is aware that correspondence upon the subject has been going on for seven years, and that, though the Registrar General describes the difficulty as resulting from the illegal action of the Vicar of Dalton-le-Dale, and that, though the persons married under these circumstances are blameless, the local ecclesiastical authorities have demanded a guarantee of the costs of rectifying the blunder, and thereby indignation has been aroused; and whether he will take steps, by bringing a Bill into Parliament, or otherwise, to place the legality of these marriages beyond dispute,

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when in New Zealand ports, and also that arrangements should be made for converting certain New Zealand liners into cruisers, the equipment and munitions to be placed in a depôt within the colony. He contends that owing to the altered conditions and recent events it is necessary that the Australasian squadron should be strengthened. In New Zealand alone 30,000 magazine rifles are required. Five years ago the Volunteers in the colony numbered 4,000; now they are over 11,000, and Mr. Seddon estimates that at the end of the year they will be increased to 18,000. Mr. Seddon suggests that a military conference, to be attended by the defence Ministers and commanders of the forces of Australasia, and also by military experts from the Imperial Army, should be held. If Lord Roberts visits the colonies he will be invited to preside. Otherwise, the Imperial authorities should be asked to send a general who has taken part in the South African campaign to preside at such a conference. The New Zealand Parliament has referred the scheme to a select committee. The outline of the scheme was sent confidentially to the Secretary of State, through the Governor, early in May. The full scheme has now been forwarded to the Secretary of State and to the Premiers of Australia and Canada.

without expense or further anxiety to the parties.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am aware of the question which has been raised regarding the marriages referred to; and a Bill has been drafted, which will, it is hoped, be laid before Parliament early next session, to quiet all doubts as to the validity of these marriages and of certain others in which similar irregularities have occurred elsewhere. I am informed that correspondence upon the subject at Dalton-le-Dale commenced as long ago as 1893; and I think it is to be regretted that the irregularities were allowed to continue so long afterwards. As regards the cost of legalising the marriages already solemnised, the secretary to the Bishop of Durham, who received a deputation from the vestry of the parish in December last, informs me that he has no knowledge of any question of this kind having arisen. The only point discussed with him was the fee which would be payable if a licence were now granted to the old church legalising the celebration of marriages there in future.

EDUCATION PROSECUTION AT HYDE—CASE OF FRANK HILL.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Mr. Frank Hill, a gasworker living at Hyde, was fined by the magistrates for not sending his child to a school, since declared by the Board of Education to be too far from the parent's home; that, on refusing to pay the fine, Mr. Hill was arrested in his own house, marched through the streets in the daytime, searched at the police station, and locked up in the cells until the money was paid; and that Mr. Hill's cottage was well stocked with household effects upon which the police could have distrained, which they refused to do; and whether he will take steps to censure the police for this arrest and detention of Mr. Hill, and to refund to him the money he had to pay as fine, seeing that the Board of Education has justified him in claiming free education at a school within reasonable distance of his house.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have already gone carefully into this case. Mr. Frank Hill was fined for not sending his child to school, and on refusing to pay was duly arrested after several warnings from the police. The arrest was legal, and he was detained only fifteen minutes. The police state that there was nothing in the house on which distraint could be levied. There is no ground for censuring the police for their action in the matter; and as to the fine, the proceedings which led to it were perfectly regular. In view, however, of what subsequently happened I am consulting the Board of Education as to whether it might not be possible to remit the fine.

MR. MADDISON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a Nonconformist minister in Blackpool himself testified that he saw furniture worth £15 in this man's house?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have the statement of the inspector of police who visited the house twice. He informs me there were no goods that could be distrained upon.

MR. MADDISON: It was the Rev. W. Evans, of Blackpool.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I know him perfectly well. He has written me several letters.

WATERPROOFS FOR PARK KEEPERS.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, Richmond): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will consider the desirability of providing the park keepers with long waterproofs in place of the present short capes.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The matter is under consideration, and I will let my hon. friend know the result later on.

BURIAL OF BODIES CAST UP BY THE SEA.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the outlay involved in the burial of dead bodies washed ashore on the coast of seaboard counties; whether he has received a memorial on the subject from the county council of Anglesey; and whether he will take steps to obtain a contribution from the Exchequer to lessen the loss which now falls upon the ratepayers of the county, or take other necessary steps to remedy the grievance under the present law.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS (for Mr. LONG): The attention of my right hon. friend has been called to the subject to which the hon. Member refers, and he has received a memorial from the Anglesey County Council respecting it. It has, however, always been considered that counties enjoying the many benefits which the possession of a sea-coast confers may fairly be called upon to meet charges such as the one in question, and it is not likely that the Treasury would be willing to make any contribution as suggested. Moreover, legislation for the purpose would be requisite.

THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

MR. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the National Telephone Company have intimated to the Postmaster General that they agree, in terms of Section 3 of the Telegraphs Act, 1899, to it being made a condition of their licence that they will not give preference to any person within the area specified in the licence by the Postmaster General to the Corporation of Glasgow, and will not within that area, as a condition of giving a service, require any person to grant any facility except for the purposes of supplying telephonic communication to that person; whether they have claimed, in respect of coming under this condition, that the permissive powers to open streets in certain burghs within that area now hold good for the whole term of their licence, and further, that their licence be extended from 1911 to 1913, so as to terminate at the same time as the licence to the Corporation of Glasgow; whether the company have issued a print of an agreement with subscribers in the Glasgow area, dated 18th June, 1900, under which the intending subscriber must bind himself as a condition of receiving a connection from the company not to subscribe to any exchange telephone system other than that of the company, or use at any of his premises any telephone instruments in connection with any such other system, and the company thus propose to give favour of preference to persons in the Glasgow district who do not join the Corporation Telephone Exchange as against those persons who do join that exchange; and what steps the Postmaster General is prepared to take to secure that the company shall not obtain privileges under last year's Telegraphs Act, and at the same time refuse its obligations.

MR. HANBURY: The National Telephone Company have stated to the Postmaster General that they are willing that the conditions mentioned in the question shall be made a condition of their licence. They have also undertaken to prove to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that they have incurred, or contracted to incur, material expenditure in laying underground wires in certain burghs in the Glasgow area, and have acquired powers for the purpose under agreements with the local authorities. The Postmaster General is not aware that the company have at present claimed that the powers given by their agreements with local authorities in the Glasgow area will hold good during the period of the licence granted to the Corporation of Glasgow, and that their licence will be extended for the full period of the corporation licence; but, when the conditions to be observed on the part of the company have been duly complied with, they will, no doubt, claim that they are entitled to the advantages specified in Section 3 of the Telegraph Act, 1899. The Postmaster General's attention has been drawn to the form of agreement now being offered by the company to their subscribers. There is some doubt whether the condition mentioned by the hon. Member can be held to be a breach of the undertaking not to give preference to persons in the Glasgow area, but there is another condition in the agreement form—that as to giving way-leaves for the wires of other persons—which would unquestionably be a violation of the undertaking not to require any person to grant any facility except for the purpose of supplying telephonic communication to that person. Any breach of the new conditions which the company are to accept as conditions of their licence will, when those conditions are legally in force, render the company liable to the same penalty as a breach of the original conditions—namely, the termination of their licence.

RETURN OF RAILWAY COMPANIES' RUNNING POWERS,

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will reconsider his decision not to grant a Return of the running powers of each railway company of the United Kingdom over the lines of other companies, and of the working arrangements between the several railways, in similar form to the summaries in the Book of Railway Junction Diagrams, formerly published by Mr. J. Airey, of the Railway Clearing House; whether he is aware that, prior to the taking over by the Railway Clearing House of Mr. Airey's copyrights, such information was accessible to traders and the public; and whether the Board of Trade have in their possession the materials for making such a Return, or whether they are dependent upon the goodwill of the railway companies or the Railway Clearing House for the necessary information; whether he can state the grounds on which the railway companies and Railway Clearing House base their refusal to furnish the requisite information; and whether, seeing that it has been represented to him that such information is under certain conditions of importance to traders, he will, in case of the persistence of the railway companies to refuse to traders and the public particulars as to the powers conferred upon them by Parliament, in the interest of the public, take further steps with the object of obtaining for the public the information sought for by the Motion.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am aware that the information desired was formerly accessible to traders and the public, but the Board of Trade are informed by the companies that a statement of statutory running powers possessed by them at any given date could not be permanently relied upon for accurate information, inasmuch as many of the powers so possessed are not exercised, while some are exercised but partially, and others only intermittently, according to varying requirements. The Return which my hon. friend asks for would therefore be obviously misleading, and it appears to me that the better course is to adopt a suggestion made by the companies, which is, that traders desiring information on the subject of running powers should apply to the railway company in question for such information. If it is found that the railway companies do not furnish information when requested to do so by persons interested, I will, of course, be happy to give further consideration to the matter.

MR. TOMLINSON: Does the answer imply that the Board of Trade will give the information?

MR. RITCHIE: If the traders, on applying to the company, fail to get the information, then I will give the matter attention.

MR. TOMLINSON: Then the Board of Trade have not the information?

MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what have been the total expenses of the guardians in the unions of Wellingborough and Kettering in respect of public vaccination in each of the three years ending 31st December, 1897, 31st December, 1898, and 31st December, 1899; and what have been the amounts of the fees to public vaccinators and vaccination officers; and what have been the expenses of prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts in each of the three years named in the said unions.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. BRIGG: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what have been the total expenses of the guardians in the unions of Keighley and Dewsbury in respect of public vaccination in each of the three years ending 31st December, 1897, 31st December 1898, and 31st, December 1899; and what have been the amounts of the fees to public vaccinators and vaccination officers; and what have been the expenses of prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts in each of the three years named in the said unions.

MR. LOGAN (Leicestershire, Harborough): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what have been the total expenses of the guardians in the unions of Leicester and Market Harborough in respect of public vaccination in each of the three years ending 31st December, 1897, 31st December, 1898, and 31st December, 1899; what have been the amounts of the fees to public vaccinators and vaccination officers; and what have been the expenses of prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts in each of the three years named in the Leicester and Market Harborough unions.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Perhaps I may be allowed to reply at the same time to this question and to the two following ones which stand in the names of the hon. Members for the Keighley and Harborough Divisions. The Local Government Board are not in possession of the information asked for. The expenditure of boards of guardians in relation to public vaccination is shown in the Local Taxation Returns, but these Returns are made up for the twelve months ending in March. The Returns for the year ended March, 1898, have already been published. Those for the following year will be issued in a few days, and the Returns for the year ended at March, 1900, will appear in due course.

MR. CHANNING: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that boards of guardians pay their accounts quarterly, and that these figures are obtainable from the boards of guardians? I have obtained them myself. Is the right hon. Gentleman also aware that the Local Taxation Returns, which will be issued in a few days, will only give the expenses of the new system of vaccination for three months from the commencement of the Act, whereas what I ask for is three full years expenses up to the end of 1899.

MR. CHAPLIN: I am not aware of the fact referred to, but I would point out that Returns affecting only three unions are asked for.

BUTE SHERIFF CLERK.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that Mr. Alexander, the sheriff clerk of the county of Bute, is a partner of, or has a pecuniary interest in, the firm of J. T. Wilson and Alexander, who carry on the business of law agents in Rothesay in the office of the sheriff clerk; and that the process accounts due to the firm are charged in the name of the other partner, and are taxed by the sheriff clerk, who is also auditor of court; and whether all this is in accordance with the position and tenure of office of the sheriff clerk.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed that the Mr. Alexander, sheriff clerk of the county of Bute, has a pecuniary interest in the firm named. I am informed that inasmuch as the firm has never had a process in the Sheriff Court (which class of work alone is prohibited), it has never had a process requiring taxation. The sheriff informs me that he is quite satisfied with the arrangements made in the sheriff clerk's office and with the way the work has been performed therein. I see no reason to differ from him.

CARNOUSTIE BAY—STEAM TRAWLING.

MR. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that the last Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland (Part I.) shows that, owing to the vigilance of the Carnoustie coastguard, the masters of five trawlers were found guilty and fined for trawling within prohibited waters in Carnoustie Bay, Forfarshire, last August; and, in view of the services thus rendered to the Scottish line fishing industry, will he consider the expediency of giving instructions for similar vigilance to be exercised at other coastguard stations on the coast of Great Britain and Ireland.

MR. GOSCHEN: I am not aware that the coastguard at Carnoustie had instructions differing from those under which the coastguard generally act. Vigilance is enjoined upon all officers and men in carrying out their instructions.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—THE BAGOT ESTATE.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the population of the Aughrane estate, in Killeroran Division, Mount

Bellew Union, is 2,583, the valuation of whose holdings is only £3,330 3s.; whether he is aware that a portion of the best lands of the division are let on the eleven months system; and whether, as the Bagot estate, which is now in the Court of Chancery is to be offered for sale, will he have the division scheduled so as to enable the tenants to purchase through the Congested Districts Board.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have no information as to the estate referred to in the first part of the question, but as it is stated to be in an electoral division which is not scheduled as congested within the meaning of Section 36 of the 54 and 55 Vict. cap. 48, there is no legal power to extend the provisions of this enactment to the division.

TRANSPORT OF DOGS FROM IRELAND.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the hardship caused by the existing regulations for the transport of dogs from Ireland to Wales; and whether, following the precedent of last year, he will so far relax the restrictions as to allow an owner on production of a veterinary surgeon's certificate to bring his dog from Ireland to Wales.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS (for Mr. LONG): My right hon. friend desires me to say that his attention has been called to the matter to which the hon. Member refers, but he regrets that he does not see his way to relax the existing restrictions in the manner suggested. The arrangement made last year did not work very satisfactorily; very few persons availed themselves of it, and the fact that there is every reason to believe that rabies no longer exists in Great Britain, appears to my right hon. friend to make it more than ever his duty to take every possible precaution against its re-introduction from Ireland, where, unfortunately, cases still occur from time to time.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT TARBERT.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kerry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what quantity of land is held by Captain R. Leslie, D.L., of Tarbert, county Kerry, in his own possession, and how many labourers' cottages, if any, have been erected by the local authority on the land in Captain Leslie's possession; and whether Captain Leslie has been a consenting party to the erection of labourers' cottages on his lands.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The clerk of the rural district council states that the quantity of land held by Captain Leslie in his own possession is 452 acres, the valuation of which is £274. The number of labourers' cottages erected by the local authority on this land is six. Captain Leslie has, so the clerk states, consented to the erection of two of these cottages.

THE TARBERT MAGISTRACY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kerry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if Mr. S. E. Collis, of Tiereclea, Tarbert, county Kerry, has recently been appointed to the Commission of the Peace; whether Mr. Collis was at any previous time a magistrate; and, if so, why has he been appointed now a second time; and on what grounds and on whose recommendation was Mr. Collis recently appointed a magistrate.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Mr. Collis, who had been an active magistrate for twenty years, resigned his Commission of the Peace in 1893 in order to become a candidate for a county office which he obtained. That office having been abolished by the Local Government Act, he was last year re-apppointed to the magistracy on the recommendation of the Lieutenant of the county, who considered him a fit and proper person to be a magistrate.

SNEEM PETTY SESSIONS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kerry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in a case of trespass between Mr. Warden and another, heard at the Sneem Petty Sessions, county Kerry, the local district inspector of police took part on the side of Mr. Warden, who is a local landlord; whether it is usual for police officers to act in this way on a private trespass summons; and, if the matter be denied by the local officer, will the constabulary authorities grant an inquiry into the case.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not aware of any case in which the District Inspector of Constabulary acted improperly.

DESTRUCTION OF WILD BIRDS IN IRELAND.

Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that in several places on the west coast of Ireland a destruction of wild birds is being carried on; and, if this practice is not in accordance with the regulations issued, whether he will direct that greater vigilance should be exercised by the proper authorities for its prevention.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR: The destruction of wild birds in the close season would, of course, be illegal, but from reports received from the Constabulary it appears there is no destruction of wild birds in the west of Ireland, as suggested in the question. The Constabulary are fully instructed to enforce the Wild Birds Protection Acts, and I believe they are vigilant to prevent any contravention of the law in this respect.

ARMS ACT ADMINISTRATION—MURDER OF MR. HUDSON.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether complaints were made to the police, or reports made by the local police or any of them to the authorities, to the effect that the man Smith, since convicted of the murder of the Rev. Mr. Hudson, was in possession of arms and a danger to the public safety; did Constable Langrille, of the Clarina Petty Sessions District, make such a report in the autumn or early winter of last year; and is he aware that Langrille so stated at the trial of Smith; can he say what steps, if any, were taken to control the man Smith, and, if none were taken, can he explain on what grounds, and if such reports were received by the authorities; and can he state whether such reports have since been mislaid, and if it is the intention of the Government, in consequence of the local feeling occasioned by this murder, to hold an inquiry into the conduct of the police authorities immediately responsible for the peace of the district.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): No complaints were made to the police, and no reports were made by them of the character mentioned in the first paragraph. Constable Langrille stated at the trial that he had made inquiries respecting the discharge by Smith of a firearm in the yard attached to his house in September last, rather incautiously, and that he reported that Smith was duly licensed to keep arms. Neither the constable nor any other person reported that the possession of arms by Smith was a danger to the public safety. No steps were taken by the police to control Smith. The discharge by him of a firearm in September of last year was not considered a sufficient reason for recommending the withdrawal of his arms licence. The reports made by the police respecting this incident, which were not of a formal character, were not mislaid. They were not furnished to headquarters, and were destroyed with other documents by the local police as being of no value. It is not the intention of the Government to hold an inquiry, as suggested in the last paragraph of the question.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: If this man Smith had been a Nationalist instead of a supporter of the Government, would he have been allowed the arms?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS IN IRELAND.

Dr. TANNER (Cork County, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the highest rate of interest—namely, 5 per cent.—is charged by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland on advances of public moneys for public libraries, and the construction of fishery piers and harbours, and can he explain why these particular items are so weighted with a maximum period of repayment of twenty-five years.

Mr. HANBURY: The maximum period in both cases is that fixed by 1 and 2 Will. IV. cap. 33, s. 40. The interest, in cases where the security of local rates is given, follows the rate fixed by the Treasury for such loans under the Public Works Loans Act of 1897. That rate is at present 3¼ per cent., not 5 per cent. Where the security of local rates is not given, the rate of interest on pier and harbour loans would be, under 46 and 47 Vict. cap. 26, 3½ per cent.; under 9 Vict. cap. 3, 5 per cent. As a matter of fact, however, no loans have for many years been made under either of these Acts.

LABOURERS' COTTAGE LOANS.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why labourers' cottages, erected by order of the Land Commission, bearing rate of interest 3½ per cent., are required to be paid for in twenty-two years, while, at the same rate of interest, for the cottages erected by boards of guardians fifty years are allowed for repayment.

MR. HANBURY: The two classes of loans are made under different Acts and on different security. Clearly, better terms can be allowed when loans have the collateral security of the rates. The maximum of fifty years is not always granted even in this case, a number of loans having been made for a period of thirty-five years.

BALLYGOWAN POSTMASTER.

DR. TANNER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Mr. Joseph Gibson, postmaster at Ballygowan, county Down, after several reprimands, walked on 7th July and also on 12th July at the head of an Orange procession, and whether, this same gentleman having been previously reprimanded for having appeared in public in a similar way, he will now consider his conduct with a view of having an assurance from him that he will not take part in future in such processions.

MR. HANBURY: The sub-postmaster referred to by the hon. Member did, it has been ascertained, walk at the head of an Orange procession on the 8th and 12th of July last. An anonymous complaint was made in 1898 that the sub-postmaster had taken part in Orange processions, and it was then pointed out to him that it was undesirable that an officer in his position should take a prominent part in such demonstrations. He has now given an assurance that he will refrain from so doing in future.

DR. TANNER: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that it is carried out?

[No answer was given.]

IRISH GOLD ORNAMENTS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the inquest on the Irish gold ornaments, which has been ordered by the Treasury, is likely to take place.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It has recently been ascertained that the words of the patent of 10 Charles II., granted to the Irish Society for the plantation of Ulster, are large enough to vest in the society the right to treasure trove. Under these circumstances it will be necessary to consider whether the Crown has any interest in the controversy and whether such proceedings as may be taken should not be instituted by that society.

LAW OF COPYRIGHT.

*MR. PURVIS (Peterborough): On behalf of the hon. Member for Cambridge University (Sir Richard Jebb), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the Bill to amend the law relating to literary copyright has been submitted to two separate Select Committees of the House of Lords, has twice been passed by that House, and has also received the approval of authors, publishers, chambers of commerce, and other bodies interested in copyright property, Her Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of themselves introducing legislation on the lines of that Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): My hon. friend will understand that I am very reluctant to give pledges at the end of the session about work in another session; that reluctance is increased in the present case from the fact that the Government have no information at present as to how a Bill is viewed in the colonies which very greatly affects those colonies.

POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS BILL.

Special Report from the Select Committee brought up, and read.

Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 355.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 355.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Supplemental War Loan Bill, without amendment.

Local Government (Ireland) Bill,
Tramway (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—

Money-lending Bill [Lords],
County Courts (Investment of Deposits) Bill [Lords],
Military Lands Bill [Lords], without amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 325.]

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 326.]

COLONIAL STOCK BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he wished to leave out "purpose" from line 5 and insert the words, "purposes of Section 2 of this Act." He explained that the object of putting down the Amendment was to elicit from the Chancellor of the Exchequer some statement as to whether the object of dispensing with the requirements mentioned in the sub-section was to enable stock which had not been issued under the Act to come within the operation of the Colonial Stock Act, and whether there was no intention in any way to give relief to stocks already under the Act, but which had not complied with its requirements. If that correctly described the intention of the clause, then he doubted if the wording sufficiently carried it out; hence his Amendment. Still, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was satisfied with the clause as it stood, and assured them it would not relieve stocks of their existing liability under the Act, but would only affect new stock brought in, then he would not press the Amendment. Pending the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman, however, he begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out 'purpose,' and insert 'purposes of Section 2 of this Act and.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The intention of the clause is precisely as the hon. Member says. It merely affects stocks which have not hitherto come within the operation of the Act. I do not think the Amendment would in any way improve it.

MR. CALDWELL: I withdraw.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

MR. CALDWELL: I have to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Poplar, namely—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from 'observed,' to end of paragraph, and insert 'the conditions as set forth in the Schedule to this Act.'"

*THE CHAIRMAN: The Amendment is out of order. It refers to a schedule, whereas none is proposed.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I think the Amendment I have to propose will meet the views of the hon. Member.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, at end, to add, 'The Treasury shall keep a list of any Colonial stocks in respect of which the provisions of this Act are for the time being complied with, and shall publish the list in such manner as they think fit.'"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. CALDWELL said this Amendment introduced a novel procedure.

Hitherto the conditions under which trustees were allowed to invest in certain stocks had been laid down by Act of Parliament. But by this Bill the Treasury took the place of Parliament, and assumed the responsibility. It was to fix the conditions under which trustees might invest in certain Colonial stock, and it was practically to grant a certificate that certain conditions had been complied with. That might or might not be a good thing, but it certainly was an entire departure from the principles which had hitherto characterised the legislation of this country. Now the Treasury he noted was to "publish the list in such manner as they think fit." This he thought was too wide a power, and he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would substitute some more definite instruction.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said this sub-section seemed to him to be an attempt to put the Treasury above every Act of Parliament. It proposed to empower it to impose conditions contained in no Act of Parliament, and which might not necessarily be of a cognate nature with it. It was an extremely dangerous thing to give the Treasury power to make provisions which would practically override an Act of Parliament; yet here it was proposed to enable it to impose any mortal condition it pleased, in addition to those insisted upon by Act of Parliament. They knew that the Treasury had far too much power already in regard to prescribing the form in which accounts should be rendered, and the result of the exercise of it in the past had been altogether unsatisfactory. The Chancellor of the Exchequer now proposed that the Treasury should keep a list of any Colonial stocks in respect of which the provisions of this Act were for the time being complied with, and should publish the list in such manner as they thought fit. They might, in fact, publish it in any method, or in any newspaper they pleased. It might, if the Treasury were corrupt, be reserved exclusively for one publication. He objected to all that part of the clause which followed the word "Act." But if it was to be passed and this addendum made, then it must be amended, and he would move to leave out all the words after "in" in the Amendment in order to insert the words "the *London Gazette*."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

> "To leave out all the words after the word 'in,' in line 4, in order to insert the words 'the *London Gazette*.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'such manner as they think fit' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) pointed out that the list might, as it stood, be altered and amended on grounds not altogether financial. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer was aware that pressure was brought to bear by the Colonial Governments to obtain facilities for placing their stocks on the London money market in return for favours done by them for the Imperial Government. Colonial communities were very anxious to get an official recognition of their stocks, and were prepared to offer inducements in return not of a financial character. It would be most desirable to secure that the proposals relating to the application of this Bill when it became an Act should be wholly based on financial grounds.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH was understood to say that he was not aware that any inducements had been offered of the kind suggested by the right hon. Member for Thanet. With regard to the Amendment of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, he was prepared to accept it.

MR. CALDWELL did not consider that the Amendment was an improvement. The document was not well or widely known, and if these words were to be added it ought to at least be in such a way as would ensure the document being laid before Parliament so that people might be able to see it. If it was intended that these stocks should be well taken up, the procedure should be made as simple as possible. People could not be expected to turn up the *London Gazette* time after time to see what stock was authorised and what not. A better way would be to let the certificate be recorded in the books of the registry of the particular stocks, and place the general registry in the Land Registry, where trustees, who were personally responsible for the investments they made, were in the habit of making searches in such matters, so that people could go and see it at once. To have to look up the *London Gazette* every time one wanted to make an investment to see if a stock was authorised and when it was authorised, and whether it had since been cancelled, would be an interminable task. And it was quite impracticable. He would rather take the right hon. Gentleman's word upon such a matter, because in the course of time the right hon. Gentleman would give some tangible information. He hoped some more satisfactory arrangement would be made which would give the public good information.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH suggested that the clause should read "in the *London Gazette*, or in such other manner as will give the public full information."

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES asked leave, in the face of the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Amendment of Sir M. Hicks Beach, altered as just indicated, agreed to.

Clauses 2, 3, and 4 agreed to.

Mr. CALDWELL said that this Bill ought not to apply to Scotland. There was already power in Scotland for investing in Colonial stocks, that power being vested in the Court of Session. In England power in this matter was vested in Parliament, in Scotland it was delegated to the Court of Session.

New clause—

"This Bill shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

—brought up, and read a second time.

Motion moved, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH complained that no notice had been given by the hon. Gentleman of his intention to move this clause. He pointed out that the Colonial Stocks Act applied to both kingdoms alike. It was possible at present for the proper courts in England to give trustees authority to invest in Colonial stocks. It had been done in Scotland but not in England, because the English courts did not desire to act in the matter without an Act of Parliament. This Bill, when passed, would strengthen the hands of the Court of Session in Scotland. He could not agree not to extend the Bill to Scotland, which had quite as much need for the Bill as England.

Mr. CALDWELL admitted that he had given no notice of his motion, but drew attention to the fact there would be a conflict of jurisdiction in Scotland which was not desirable if this Bill was made to apply to Scotland.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH undertook, if the hon. Member for Mid Lanark did not press the motion, to consider the matter between this and the Report stage.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill reported, with Amendments. As amended, to be considered To-morrow.

SUPPLEMENTAL WAR LOAN BILL.

[Third Reading.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): This Bill contains a large loan for our military operations in China, and this perhaps is the only occasion upon which we have an opportunity of calling attention to the deplorable delay which has taken place in those military operations. The accounts coming to us both from Peking, where the Legations are still in the direst straits, and from Tientsin, where the relief force is assembled, are of the most alarming character. The latest accounts from Peking say that the Legations on the 21st or 22nd of July had only a fortnight's provisions and very little ammunition. The fortnight has expired; whilst the reports from Tientsin show a deplorable want of harmony amongst the commanders of the allied forces. I do not propose on this Bill to go into the policy of the Government, but I think we have a right to complain of the long delay which has taken place in starting the relief expedition, and also of the fact that, so far as we know, no commander-in-chief has been appointed for that expedition. The appointment of a commander-in-chief is a most serious military necessity—far more serious nowadays than it would have been twenty or even ten years ago, because the operations of modern warfare are on so large a scale, and turning movements are so great, that there never was a time when a directing chief was so important as the present. Yet we cannot find, although Her Majesty's Government have had two months in which to make arrangements for this expedition, that any commander-in-chief has been appointed. The result of that may be very serious upon the Legations when the force approaches Peking. It may be very serious indeed also, on the grounds of humanity, when the population of Peking, amounting to 1,000,000, are exposed to the attacks of five or six different armies without any direct heading. We already know what serious events have occurred at Tientsin, where apparently there was a deplorable massacre of the civilian Chinese population by the Russian troops, and we also know the delays which have taken place for want of a commander-in-chief. I read in a telegram from Tientsin that the greatest indignation is felt there at the delay. The president of the Tientsin University made a speech ten days ago, in which he said—

> "This way of proceeding is not in accordance with Anglo-Saxon traditions; 21,000 soldiers are staying here, while women and children of their own race are starving and awaiting massacre eighty miles away. The officers are wasting their time in bickering over party politics."

That is borne out by information which comes to nearly every English paper. It is possible, of course, that all the correspondents may be mistaken, and that the utmost is being done for the relief of Peking, but it does not appear to be so. Unfortunately we have ground in the past for distrusting the energy of Her Majesty's Government on this point. My right hon. friend the Under Secretary of State the other day attempted to justify the delay which took place before the despatch of 6th July to the Japanese Government. That despatch of 6th July was, in my opinion, the first sign that Her Majesty's Government really grasped the necessities of the position. On 6th July they did give a direct guarantee to the Japanese Government that, if Japan would send an adequate force, Japan would be supported by Great Britain. I hold if that statement had been made on 8th June, when the gravity of the crisis became known, the Japanese would have sent a sufficient force, which would have saved us a great part of this large vote of credit for the relief of the Legations. There is a remarkable and interesting letter in *The Times* to-day from Tokio, dated 6th July, the very date of that despatch. That letter says—

> "Japan could have dispatched an army of 50,000 men within ten days of the receipt of the news that Tientsin had been invested. . . . . With such a programme (the balance of power and the open door) Japan entirely sympathises. But she declines to rely on conjecture only. She wants an explicit understanding, and it is in Downing Street that the outlines of an understanding must be traced. If the British Government consents to be explicit, the difficulties will disappear at once. By this time a strong Japanese force might have been marching to the relief of Peking."

That entirely bears out what I have stated in this House before, that Her Majesty's Government have not been sufficiently decided and explicit in regard to employment of a large Japanese force. I am very much afraid that precisely the same course of want of decision, which led to the delay in the guarantee to Japan and the risking of the Legations, has been pursued in regard to the appointment of the commander-in-chief. It is obvious that a commander-in-chief should be appointed, and it is obvious also that he should be an English general officer. Our interests in China are far the largest, our historical connection with China is the greatest, our trade is far the most valuable, and our force at Tientsin are, I believe, the most numerous of any European force there—of course not so numerous as the Japanese. To allow this question of the commander-in-chief to drift, to allow the forces of Europe to be arrested in their progress at Tientsin, owing to the bickerings which prevail amongst their leaders, while the Legations are in a state of the utmost need, and while their food is running short, if it has not entirely disappeared, creates a very serious responsibility for Her Majesty's Government. I am afraid it is due to their pursuit of that will-o'-the-wisp the Concert of Europe, which they will never find in any part of the world, and least of all in European policy towards China. Their only hope is the adoption of a clear British policy, both political and military, and the support of that policy by all the friendly aid that Her Majesty's Government can obtain. They can get the support of the Japanese if they will only be explicit. They can get the support of the United States. They probably can get the support of Germany as well. But to wait for that chimera the Concert of Europe, when they know that several European Powers are deliberately counterworking their efforts, will only too likely end in the loss of those lives which everyone in this country is so anxious to see saved.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) moved that the Amendments be considered that day three months. He made no apology for taking this action against the Bill even at this late stage of the session. His hon. friends and himself had felt it to be their duty to meet this measure with the most determined opposition at every stage, and they were determined to continue that opposition to the end. From their point of view, this was one of the many measures by which Her Majesty's present advisers had sought to undo the effect upon the landlords of Ireland of the different Land Acts which had been passed for the relief of the tenants in Ireland. Speakers from the Liberal benches had described this measure as one introduced by the Government for the purpose of giving doles to certain classes of their Unionist supporters. That part of the subject had been ably dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman the late Home Secretary, and he did not propose to say anything about it. He would confine himself to the effect of this Bill upon Ireland. Some difference of opinion arose as to the manner in which the landlords received, when originally proposed, the measure which enabled them to buy out for a certain number of years the tithe rent-charge. The right hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for North Armagh strongly denied that this boon, or, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer called it, this bribe, was received with any great manifestation of gratification on their part. But there was one point with regard to the manner in which the speech introducing the Irish Church Bill was received as to which there was and could be no contest, and that was the feeling of emotion and satisfaction with which the announcement was received that a portion of the funds received from the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church would be devoted to the relief of unavoidable misery. Everybody assumed at the time, and rightly assumed, that what Mr. Gladstone, in that great and historic speech, meant by that was that the funds he was compelled, in the interest of religious equality, to divert from the support of a particular religious body would be so far reserved for, so to speak, spiritual purposes.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is at liberty to discuss the general effect of the Lords Amendments to the Bill, but he cannot enter into a discussion of a Second Reading nature.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he had endeavoured to ascertain the exact limits prescribed by the rules of the House, but he had misunderstood the information given to him. He thought he might be in order in discussing the general policy of the Bill, but, after the ruling from the Chair, it would be most improper to pursue that line of discussion. He regarded it as something of a Parliamentary indecency that the Government should persist in this Bill at this time of the session, and should introduce two or three days before the final sitting of the session Amendments so important as those which had been made in the House of Lords. When he was told that he might discuss the effect of the Lords Amendments, he was sorry to say that he found it somewhat difficult to respond to the suggestion, because, though he had gone over these Amendments several times, he must say that some of the provisions remained almost as much a Chinese puzzle as they were before. So far as he was able to interpret these Amendments, they were for the purpose of making the Bill somewhat more favourable to the position of the landlords. If that was so he must enter a strong protest against the adoption of such a proposal at the eleventh hour of the session. He should await with some curiosity the explanation of these Amendments by the Attorney General.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member move an Amendment?

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that the Lords Amendments be considered this day three months.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL (Donegal, S.) seconded the motion. He said that, although the Amendments were technically in order, practically this was a measure dealing with money. If this money had come as a fresh grant from the public funds, these Amendments could not be considered at all, but as they were dealing with the Irish Church Fund the Amendments were technically in order. Not one line or dot in this Bill, which had been discussed in Committee of this House for nearly eight days, had been allowed to be put in the measure in consequence of Amendments from the Irish Benches. He believed he was right in stating that every one of these Amendments which the House was now asked to accept had been proposed in the House of Lords by a Minister of the Crown, Lord Ashbourne. He considered that these changes made a fresh raid on the Irish Church Fund in favour of the landlords. Therefore, he thought he was perfectly in order in denouncing this measure as a fraud on the original Irish Church Act. There was one Amendment in particular which he thought was exceedingly wrong, and that was the Amendment to the fourth section.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central): That is merely a drafting Amendment.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL said the Amendment was not made at the time it was proposed by his hon. friend, who represented one of the divisions of Cornwall, because the Government and the Attorney General felt that if the Amendment was accepted it would give the House a chance of discussing the Bill again on Report. He thought that course was exceedingly wrong. This was undoubtedly another raid on the Church Fund, and more especially was this the case in regard to Lord Ashbourne's poor-rate Amendment. He should oppose those Amendments, because they facilitated a further raid on the Irish Church Fund in the interests of one class who were the most worthless class in any community.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 282.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Heath, James
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. S. (Staffs.)
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'l'nd
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian

Maple, Sir John Blundell
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent,Cl.SirC.E.H.(Sheff'ld
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.
Asquith,RtHonHerbertHenry
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Baker, Sir John
Blake, Edward
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (DerbyCo.)
Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, SirWilfrid(Cumberl'd
Lloyd-George, David
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
MacDonnell,Dr.M.A.(Qn's Co
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.
Palmer, Sir Chas.M.(Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Sinclair, Capt.John(Forfarsh.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J.(York,W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. T. P. O'Connor and
Mr. MacNeill.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 3, after line 40, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 3, after line 40, insert:—

'(2.) Where the hereditaments out of which the tithe rent-charge is payable are situate partly in an urban and partly in a rural district any question which may arise as to the portions of the tithe rent-charge which are to be deemed for the purposes of this section to be payable in respect of the parts of the hereditaments situate in the rural and urban districts respectively shall be referred to the Land Commission, whose decision shall be final.

'(3.) Section 1 of the Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Act, 1848 (which provides for deduction from rent paid in respect of tithe rent-charge) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, where tithe rent-charge is reduced by virtue of this section, [and, in the application of the said Section 1 to tithe rent-charge payable out of hereditaments situate within a rural district, "one-quarter" shall be substituted for "one-half."].'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL thought the Attorney General was treating the House scarcely fairly in pressing these Amendments without any explanation.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) explained that under Section 6 a difference was made in the deduction from the tithe rent according to whether a hereditament lay in a rural or an urban district. All that this section did was to enable the Land Commission to say how much should be taken as being in a rural, and how much in an urban district.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments, as far as the Amendment in page 4, line 25, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 25, after 'sale,' insert '(3.) Where the estate or interest conveyed was less than the fee-simple, this section shall not apply after the determination of such less estate or interest.'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. ATKINSON was understood to state that the object of this Amendment was to shut out from the benefits of the Act any person who purchased one of the hereditaments which under the Act of 1836 made the owner liable to pay tithes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL opposed the Amendment, the effect of which was to make a fresh raid on the Irish Church Fund in the interest of the landlords. The Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Government, ought not to accept this Amendment to his own clause, introduced in fulfilment of a promise in the House. The clause, after seven days incubation in the Irish Office, was made as favourable to the landlords as was possible in the face of that promise, and it was not fair that it should now be made more favourable.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR said the section in which these Amendments were inserted was a very complicated one. The hon. Member for North Louth suggested that the clause should apply only where there had been a sale of the fee simple, but the right hon. Gentleman the late Attorney General for Ireland thought that in addition it should include perpetual interest. That was accepted, but on further reflection it was thought desirable to except certain interests.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) thought the Amendment simply carried out the intention of the original proposal, and therefore the explanation of the Chief Secretary should be accepted as reasonable and satisfactory.

Question put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT (1890) AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 1, line 24, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 24, leave out sub-section (3), and insert 'The principal Act is hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of the Schedule to this Act'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): This Amendment, I think, raises a question of privilege upon which it is our duty at any rate to obtain your ruling, Sir. Under Section 65 of the Act of 1890, the expenses incurred by a local authority in the execution of the Act have to be defrayed in the case of an urban sanitary authority as general expenses, and in the case of a rural sanitary authority as special expenses, with a proviso in the latter case that the County Council may determine them to be general expenses. Therefore, as the law stood at the time this Bill was introduced in this House, the expenses were *prima facie* special expenses, and fell on special classes of ratepayers. This House, when in Committee, by Subsection 3, Clause 2, altered that part of the 65th Section of the Act of 1890, by providing that in future these expenses should be general and not special, the result being that the incidence of this particular form of local expenditure was cast, or might be cast, upon a different class of ratepayer. The House of Lords has, by the conjoint effect of this Amendment and of the schedule, taken these expenses from the category of general expenses, in which the House of Commons had put them, and replaced them in the category of special expenses. That, I submit, is a violation, which should be resented by the House, of the well established principle that where a provision is made by the House of Commons and embodied in a Bill, and sent to the House of Lords, which in any way affects or alters the incidence of local taxation, it is not within the competence of the House of Lords, as a matter of constitutional privilege, to amend or alter that provision. I have to ask you, Sir, whether the Amendment just read does not in fact violate that well-established principle. May I, if not out of order, endeavour to anticipate an answer that might conceivably be given—namely, that what the House of Lords has done in this case, though in form to amend the financial proposals of the House of Commons, is in substance merely to reinstate the preexisting law. That I also submit cannot be within the competence of the House of Lords, for the Amendment takes the form of replacing in the Bill that which would have been the general law of the land if the Bill had not passed the House of Commons; and I would point out, further, that the House of Lords have not contented themselves with replacing in the Bill the pre-existing law, but have proceeded to amend that law. They have, in fact, omitted some five or six lines of the section of the principal Act, and have made a further Amendment in the proviso at the end of the clause. They have not, in fact, reinstated the clause as it previously existed, and have amended a proposition made in this House in a matter which is beyond their competence. I therefore respectfully submit that this Amendment is a breach of the privileges of the House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): On the point of order I should like to say a few words in reference to what my right hon. friend has said. He is perfectly accurate in saying that under the Act of 1890 expenses of this kind were special expenses unless they were declared to be general expenses. He was not quite accurate with reference to the effect of the Bill as it left the House of Commons. As the Bill left this House, these expenses were general, but there was a power given to the Local Government Board, if they pleased, to make them special under Section 29 of the Act of 1894. What the House of Lords has done is to change the Bill in a way which leaves the law exactly as it was under the Act of 1890. They are special expenses unless the council declares them to be general. Therefore, I contend that there has not been any interference with the privileges of this House. My right hon. friend has said that the House of Lords altered the law because they had struck out certain words from Sub-section 3 of Section 65 of the Act of 1890. That is perfectly true. As the Bill left this House certain words in Sub-section 3 were struck out, and all the House of Lords did was to eliminate certain words in the proviso, which had consequently become unnecessary and meaningless. I therefore submit, Mr. Speaker, that there has been no breach of privilege, and that the House of Lords have restored the law as it was before this Bill was introduced.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): On the point of order I would wish, with reference to what has fallen from the Attorney General, to draw attention to what the effect of the Lords Amendments really will be, because it seems to me they will work very differently from the manner stated by the hon. Gentleman. Under the section as it stood, in the case of rural sanitary authorities the special expenses would fall on the special district concerned, save where the burden of such expense was ordered by the county council to be borne by the contributory places, and was deemed to be expense incurred for the common benefit of all the contributory places liable. That is to say, all the contributory places must pay except where the county council shows any special cause why the expense should fall in one contributory place only. That was a power of substance, because it enabled the authority to say that the improvement had been for the benefit of a whole group of districts. The House of Lords by its action has taken away that power from the county councils, and consequently in all cases these rates will be special rates, and must be borne by the place for the benefit of which the improvement was made, although that place might be ill able to bear them. I submit, therefore, that the House of Lords has not only restored the existing law, but has made a very substantial alteration in the incidence of taxation for this purpose.

*MR. SPEAKER: When this Bill was considered on the Report stage the hon. Member for Thirsk had an Amendment on the Paper relating to this matter, and an objection was taken that it was out of order because it proposed to alter the incidence of taxation. It was not the same as the Amendment that was carried in the House of Lords. The Attorney General stated that the Amendment in that shape did or possibly might alter the incidence of taxation, and both sides being apparently in agreement, I did not go into it further, and ruled it out of order on the Report stage. With regard to the Lords Amendment, it appears to me that it is an alteration that brings us back to the state of the existing law; it does not alter the existing law. As to the statement that the alteration is different from the law as proposed by the Commons, I confess I do not, upon examination, think that it is an alteration which affects the privileges of this House. It does not appear to me to alter the incidence of taxation but rather to affect to a very limited extent the power of a public body to alter the rate from general to special in one case and from special to general in the other. I confess I do not think it is a matter which touches the question of rating in such a way as to effect an infringement of the privileges of this House.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): The House of Commons having decided that certain expenses should be general and certain other expenses should be special, I ask you, Sir, whether the Amendments of the House of Lords do not transfer a portion of the burden of the expenditure from one class of ratepayers to another class in the same area, and whether the House of Lords have a right to alter the wording of a bill so as to levy in effect taxation on a new class of ratepayers or to impose a larger degree of taxation on another class.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is putting over again the arguments which have been already dealt with.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 88; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 283.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir. M. H (Bristol
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hon James (Kent)
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'l'nd
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts, S.)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H (Sheff'ld
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn.'s Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Walter Foster and Mr. William M'Arthur.

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 12, after 'tenant' insert 'Provided always, that in estimating the value of any such improvement, there shall not be taken into account, as part of the improvement made by the tenant, what is justly due to the inherent capabilities of the soil'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. HALDANE thought there would be a very general opinion that the Government ought to stick to their guns. When the Bill was last before the House the Government were assailed with immense vigour by a small but compact body of hon. Gentlemen who generally directed their attacks on theological points, but who on that occasion betook themselves to metaphysics. On all sides there was a protest against the repetition in the Government Bill of words which, it became clear during the debate, had no intelligible meaning; and the Minister for Agriculture in a very clear and definite way expressed the view of the Government that that clause or proviso was not one which ought to remain in the Bill. The question, it was pointed out, was not of substance; it was not a case of introducing any new principle into the Bill, but of removing words which were calculated to puzzle even acute minds. The Government took the opportunity of removing these words from the existing law; but now the Lords, thanks to the exertions of the vigorous party opposite, had reinserted them. But that did not seem to him to be any reason why the Government should run away from the very sensible attitude taken up by the Minister for Agriculture, and go back on what they had said to the House a week or two ago. He hoped the House would disagree with the Lords Amendment.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said his hon. and learned friend was perfectly accurate in saying that the removal of this proviso was not intended to make any change in the law and would not make any such change. On the other hand, it was stated with considerable force that to remove that proviso gave rise to a feeling that it was intended to alter the law. The former of those considerations prevailed with this House; the latter prevailed in another place. It was now for the House to determine whether, for the sake of removing this proviso which would have no effect in altering the law, it was prepared to lose the Bill, which it was admitted on all hands contained some provisions of value. Under these circumstances, and as the Government were anxious to see the Bill become law, he hoped the House would agree with the Lords Amendment.

***Mr. CHANNING** said it was a great pity that the Government had decided to take the course they had done. He believed it would create a good deal of dissatisfaction in the country. The omission of the proviso was pressed upon the President of the Board of Agriculture by an influential deputation, and it was with general assent that it had been omitted. The omission had also been supported by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture, and the President of the Local Government Board on the Commission on Agriculture. It was perfectly true that in point of law, perhaps, it did not alter the law or make any substantial change to the detriment of the tenant, but there had been a very strong feeling in the minds of the tenants that the presence of these words might give rise to injustice in certain cases. When that impression had been created it seemed injudicious to reintroduce them.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said that the House by a large majority had decided against these words, and he thought the small party in this House in favour of them were not justified in using their influence in another place to have the words replaced in the Bill. More than that, there was an element of threat in the expression of the Attorney General that they must accept this Amendment or lose the Bill. He protested against that attitude of the Attorney General, more especially because this Amendment might have come down from the Lords many days ago instead of on practically the last day of the session. He thought that, both in substance and because of the method by which it had been introduced, the Amendment ought to be rejected.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 94 ; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 284.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Easbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'l'nd
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffld
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Blake, Edward
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Hogan, James Francis
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumberl'd
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A (Qn's Co.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Haldane and Mr. Channing.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 4, line 22, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 4, line 22, to leave out 'twenty-ive, twenty-six, and twenty-seven,' and insert twenty-three, twenty-four, and twenty-five' " ead a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

*MR. CHANNING rose on a point of order to draw attention to the fact that this Amendment was consequential upon two others which appeared lower down on the Paper. He wished to ask whether the passing of the Amendment would preclude any discussion upon the subsequent Amendments, and whether it would be possible in event of its so doing to postpone it until those Amendments which related to the schedule were disposed of.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not quite follow the hon. Member.

*MR. CHANNING said there were Amendments upon the Paper lower down which, if agreed to, made this Amendment necessary. If it were now put from the Chair, would it not prevent the reinsertion of the items in Part 2 of the schedule which the Lords had struck out?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Gentleman suggest that if these numbers, 25, 26, and 27, were struck out it would be impossible to go back to alter something in Nos. 18 and 19?

*MR. CHANNING: I confess I do not quite understand the way in which you put it.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand the present Amendment is an amendment to Nos. 25, 26, and 27—marling of land, application to land of purchased artificial or other purchased manure, etc. Is all that to be struck out?

*MR. CHANNING: Oh, no, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then I confess I do not follow the hon. Member.

MR. ASQUITH said on the point of order raised by the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire he might be permitted to explain the matter as it appeared to him. The Amendment was really consequential upon the alterations made in the Bill by the House of Lords in the schedule. If the Amendment were passed before the schedule were dealt with, it might apply to numbers which the House of Lords and this House did not intend that it should apply to.

MR. SPEAKER: In that case it might be convenient that it should be postponed.

The consideration of the Lords Amendment was postponed.

The next Amendment, page 5, line 9, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 8 (to leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

*MR. CHANNING said that the leaving out of those words would have the result of still compelling the farmer to obtain the consent of his landlord to plant osiers, whatever the area. Compensation would only be paid subject to the consent of the landlord being obtained. The small concessions made by the Bill appeared to him to be whittled away by this Amendment of the Lords, and he hoped the Government would resist it, having regard to the fact that the provision as originally drawn had been supported by a large majority of the House.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped that the House would agree with the Lords Amendment. He was informed by those who had more knowledge of this subject than he had that this was not a matter of very great importance. There were two considerations which governed this question. First, wherever an improvement was undertaken in reasonable circumstances there could be no ground to suppose that the landlord would refuse his consent. As the effect of converting an acre of land into a garden was to improve the land, he thought that most landlords, acting reasonably, would give their consent if the tenant desired to carry out an improvement of the kind. There might, of course, be a percentage of cases in which the consent would be unreasonably refused; but should the House, for the sake of dealing with a comparatively small percentage of cases, imperil the passage of the Bill, to which all parties attached some importance?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 96; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 285.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hon James (Kent)
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'land
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffld
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Williams, Jos. Powell-(Birm.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Blake, Edward
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'nd
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M A (Queen's C
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Channing and Mr. Ellis Griffith.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 10 (leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said that with regard to the small holders of land in Wales the question whether they were to be able to make gardens after simply giving notice instead of obtaining the consent of the landlord was one of the utmost importance. He did not think the Attorney General grasped the importance of this matter. It did not affect those whose holdings were large, or where agricultural operations were carried on, but it was a matter of the greatest importance to people occupying small holdings in the mountainous parts of the country. The right hon. Gentleman had said that if it was to the benefit of the holding no landlord would withhold his consent. Such a statement showed a want of practical acquaintance with the way in which these small holdings were carried on. On small holdings in mountainous districts it often happened that a small piece of land from its soil and aspect was well adapted for growing produce for which the tenant from local circumstances could find a market, and such cultivation would be an advantage to himself and the holding. It was a simple matter, but would become impossible if the landlord's assent with conditions were required. He had in mind a large estate in Wales divided into 771 holdings, some as small as five acres, and remote from the estate office. A long correspondence and formal preliminaries would be ridiculous in relation to a garden plot.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY could not conceive that a landlord would impose unreasonable conditions, having regard to the character of the holding, or that, except in very exceptional circumstances, any hardship to the tenant would arise from having to obtain the owners' assent.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) asked why these considerations were not regarded when the Bill was framed. The Bill contained this provision when it was originally introduced. It was founded on the recommendation of the Central and other Chambers of Agriculture, and the Government deliberately introduced it after some discussion, and the pros and cons must have been considered before it was introduced. Although the Government had supported it, and resisted the Amendments of hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House, yet it was now proposed to accept the Lords Amendment. Why did not the Government in this matter stand to their guns, and hold to an Amendment which was of great importance to those concerned? It was one of the very small improvements upon preceding legislation, and it was greatly to be regretted that the Government did not show a greater disregard to the landlord interest in these matters. There was no justification for the disgraceful surrender of which they had been guilty.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I much regret the Lords Amendments made in this Bill. I believe this Amendment will not, in the main, cause many hardships among tenants. It is mainly a sentimental grievance. I regret the action of the House of Lords, but though dissenting from the Amendments made by that House, I will vote for the Government. I quite foresee that if we were to beat the Government in this matter, which we are not likely to do, the Bill would be lost.

*MR. CHANNING: The reply of the Attorney General, so far as I understood it, was that the landlords have so good a way of attending to their own interest that they are perfectly certain to grant permission for the laying out of a garden. But I must protest against this Amendment as really almost an insane assertion of caste domination in this matter. [Laughter.] Let anyone who laughs at this just go down to the Vale of Evesham and see for himself what enormous contributions have been made to the wealth of the owners of land by the energy and outlay of the market gardeners planting gardens at their own risk. It seems to me that the doctrine embodied in the Amendment is one of the most extraordinary economic follies I have ever seen.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: We are told that the matter is not to be discussed on the merits. We are told that we must agree with the Lords Amendments or we will not get the Bill at all. I do not think that is a right position for the House of Commons to be put in. It is not against reasonable landlords that this Bill is directed. It is against unreasonable landlords. If all landlords were reasonable we should not require a Bill of this kind directed against them. This House represents landlords quite enough. The House of Lords is a House of landlords pure and simple. I think we have a right to protest against the way the House of Commons and the Government have been overruled in the matter.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I say a few words in defence of Her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty's Government are showing that they are accessible to reason and capable of repentance. I think, further, that the Attorney General has proved that he never appears to greater advantage than when he is answering his own speeches. This Bill has multiplied the rights of action and the causes of quarrel between tenant and landlord too much. This Amendment will remove one right of action and cause of quarrel. It is a mistake to multiply by statute the conditions of disagreement. It is a far better way to leave tenant and landlord to themselves so far as you possibly can. The hon. Member opposite says this is only for the wicked landlords. That is the argument that is always used. I believe there are few landlords so wicked as to prevent a tenant from making such an improvement as this, which would be a permanent improvement to his own land. The assumption of hon. Members is that all wicked landlords would prevent this improvement. I support every word of this Amendment, not on metaphysical grounds, but on the ground of keeping alive friendship between landlord and tenant, and the system of give and take. The more you leave them to themselves, and the less you put them in the chains of the words of the statute, the better prospect you have of a satisfactory feeling subsisting between them.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 95; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 286.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Gearge Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Rt. Hn G J (St George's
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cumb'land
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
Morrison, James A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Saudys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H (Sheffi'd)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Blake, Edward
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A (Q'n.s Co
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, HenryJ. (York,W.R.
Wilson,Jos.H (Middlesbrough

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Brynmor Jones and
Captain Sinclair.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 17 (leave out "exceeding one acre"), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.) reminded the House that this was one of the recommendations of the Central Chamber of Agriculture. He could not, for the life of him, see that the landlord's property or rights were likely to be interfered with to any great degree by this provision. He trusted that the Government would see their way to go to the House of Lords once more with the proposal.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said the only inference they could draw was that there must be considerable sympathy on the part of the Government and their supporters with the action of the House of Lords in this matter. This was a matter of considerable importance to a number of small individuals. He could testify from his own knowledge that it was an interesting question in the agricultural constituencies in Scotland.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 99; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 287.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt.Hon.G.W.(Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirMH.(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,JAusten (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chath'm
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon.AilwynEdward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir JohnEldon
Goschen,RtHonGJ(StGeorge's
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Kimber, Henry
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt.HonJames(Kent)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H (Sheffld
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William(CorkN.E.)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Blake, Edward
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas

Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M A (Queen'sC
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Stanhope, Hon Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soames and Captain Sinclair.

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

Postponed Amendment agreed to.

COMPANIES BILL.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL moved that the Lords Amendments be considered that day three months. He did not want to trouble their Lordships to consider the Bill any further. They had been considering the Bill for five years. A promise was made by this Government when it came into power, in 1895, that there should be a drastic amendment of the Companies Acts. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in January, 1896, stated that fraud had become rampant and that he was sorry there was very great difficulty——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can only discuss this Bill from the point of view of the Amendments by the Lords. He cannot discuss the general principle of the Bill, or those parts of it that both Houses are agreed on.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he had that in view. The Companies Bill had been mentioned in every Queen's Speech since the present Ministry came into power. Many of the Amendments which had been introduced in the House of Lords were Amendments which had been cut out in the House of Commons before. These Amendments were introduced at a time when it was practically impossible to disagree with them without destroying the Bill. The Government had treated the House very badly in this matter, as the Bill, although the first promised in the Queen's Speech, was not introduced until late in the session, with the result that they now had to accept an emasculated measure.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.' "—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 23. (Division List No. 288.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt Hon Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cox, Irwin Edwin Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes

Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Hayne, Rt Hon Charles Seale-
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Keswick, William
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
Morrison, Jas. A. (Wilts, S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptf'd)
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pierpoint, Robert
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Steadman, William Charles
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Vincent, Col Sir C E H (Sheffield)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunton
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson. Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Blake, Edward
Broadhurst, Henry
Cawley, Frederick
Crilly, Daniel
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn'sC.)
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Whiteley, George (Stockport)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. MacNeill and Mr. Havelock Wilson.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendments as far as the Amendment in page 6, line 18, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 6, line 18 (leave out from "any," to the first "and" in line 20), read a second time.

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said that this Amendment raised a point of some little importance. The clause was inserted in Committee to meet the case of a company some portion of the capital and control of which was in the hands of persons holding founders' and management shares. The object of the clause was to ensure that the prospectus would bring to the attention of the intending subscriber information as to the extent of the control over the company's business, and as to the extent of the interest in the company's property and profits possessed by the holders of these founders' shares. The Lords had allowed the provision relating to the latter point to remain, but for some inexplicable reason they had deleted that portion of the clause relating to the extent of the control. Therefore, while the less important element survived, the more important was struck out; but he did not think the Lords would have done that if they had known the arguments by which the provision was supported. The task imposed upon directors by the clause was not a very heavy one, as the section would be entirely complied with by saying the number of founders' shares was 100 or 150, the holders of which were entitled to nominate three members of the board, and to divide the profits after the payment of 6 per cent. He hoped the Government would disagree with this Amendment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the hon. and learned Member would not take a course which, if successful, at the present period of the session, might have the result of endangering the passage of the Bill. Reference had been made to the fact that holders of founders' shares very often received quite an exceptional proportion of the profits of a company. That, however, was provided for by the Bill as it stood, because the prospectus had to state the nature and extent of the interest of holders of founders' shares in the property and profit of a company. The reason for striking out the other portion of the clause was simply that it was not desirable to overload the prospectus with too many particulars. He referred the hon. and learned Member, who had said it was not necessary to state in detail the nature of the control, to the words of the clause which specified that a prospectus was to supply particulars of the control exercised by such holders. It was easy to say that the power of nominating three directors could be stated in a line, but very often there was considerable detail as to the nature of the control which the holders of these shares had over a company, and to set out all that detail might require a very lengthy paragraph. Moreover, the information as to control could be obtained by a reference to the Articles of Association. He therefore hoped the Lords Amendment would be agreed to.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES thought the argument that the Bill might be lost was not one which should be addressed to those who had been critics of the measure. The Government were responsible for not introducing the Bill earlier, and there certainly had been no disposition on the part of the Opposition to delay its passage. The substance of the reply of the Attorney General with regard to this particular Amendment was simply that the prospectus might be lengthened if this information was required to be given. He, however, was not appalled by that prospect. The subsidiary clauses in the agreements between the promoters of a company and the persons taking founders' or management shares were the very things the supporters of this clause desired to strike at. It was not sufficient for the intending subscriber to know the nature and extent of the interest of such holders in the property and profit of a company. That information could be obtained in many ways. The public desired to know what were the secret bargains that were being made, so that they might not be induced to subscribe for shares on a prospectus that concealed agreements between the promoters of a company and the holders of management or founders' shares, which might be of vital importance to the successful carrying on of the undertaking. The clause would be an infinitely better one if the words struck out by the Lords were retained, and he hoped the Amendment would be disagreed with.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 93 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 289.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon Henry
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Heath, James
Houston, R. P.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swan.)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
Morrison, James A. (Wilts., S.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Percy, Earl
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thomas Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas (Somerset)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, George
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bramsdon, Thomas Arthur
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Denny, Colonel
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A (Qn's Co.
MacNeill, J. Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Stephens, Henry Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tanner, Charles Kearns
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lawson Walton and
Mr. Brynmor Jones.

Subsequent Amendments agreed to.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. CHANNING: I wish to say a few words on the settlement of the South African War. I offer no apology for attempting to deal briefly with this subject, because this is the last occasion on which we shall be privileged this session to offer any observations upon perhaps the gravest and most important issues this country has ever had to face. And I do not think that any apology is needed for a Member of this House coming forward, as I wish to do, in the capacity of a peace-maker. I listened with the greatest interest to the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Durham the other day, the admirable spirit and broad statesmanship of which I do not think could be praised too highly. In that short but significant speech the hon. Member rather complained that on this side of the House there had been no suggestions as to the future, nor as to the conduct of these affairs to a definite issue. I wish in what I am going to say to lead up to some practical and useful suggestions for the settlement of this tremendous problem. The Colonial Secretary said the other day that it added very much to the force of the contentions of those who wished leniency to be shown to the two Republics and to the rebels in the Cape if they believed that this war was an unjust and an unnecessary war. I do not wish to enter upon that topic now, because it would be trespassing unfairly upon the time of the House. I dealt with that aspect of the case very fully on the Amendment to the Address, and all I have to say about it now is that it seems to me that all the arguments, the contentions, and the evidence brought to light since the debate on the Address on the Amendment of the noble Lord the Member for Cricklade have tended only to deepen my conviction that this war was an unnecessary and an unjust war. I will not now labour that contention, nor do I wish to make any attack upon the Colonial Secretary. I think that the issues which are before the House at such a moment as this are beyond any personal issues. History will have to answer many questions as to the right hon. Gentleman and his connection with these affairs; history may solve the problem why it is that the right hon. Gentleman has preferred, in dealing with men and with nations, rather to make enemies than to make friends; history will decide what contribution the right hon. Gentleman may have made towards that hatred and suspicion of England among peoples abroad which has roused such lively alarm in the minds of great experts in foreign policy like Lord Salisbury and Lord Rosebery; and history will have to solve the problem whether that greatest and most disinterested of British statesmen, William Pitt—who forms the noblest picture, perhaps, in national history—won more glory by fighting the battles of the nationalities of Europe against the Imperialism of Napoleon than the right hon. Gentleman has gained by suppressing the liberties of two petty republics whose liberty we have again and again pledged ourselves to preserve. What I wish to deal with are practical, simple, and direct issues. It seems to me that there can be no work more noble in its character than to make suggestions which will tend to remove some of the bitter horrors of this war, and ameliorate the condition of chaos which we see in South Africa to-day, and which will tend to produce friendship and good will between two races which will have to live side by side in the future. What I have to bring before the House is whether John Bright and Ireland have taught us the true lesson that force is no remedy, or whether we are to accept the modern theory that the only way of obtaining a willing acquiescence in our rule—which is the aim of this policy, if it has any aim whatever—is to crush out the individuality of men and peoples, and to dictate without conferring or listening to their views, or claims, or protests, and to force upon them our own scheme of government whether they like it or not. We have already seen some of the results of this policy. The reply of Lord Salisbury to the telegram of the President of the Orange Free State and the President of the Transvaal Republics when Bloemfontein was captured seemed to me at the time a reply which menaced a prolongation—an embittered prolongation—of this war. I venture to say that it would have been better if, without accepting the terms suggested in the telegrams of the two Presidents—which, of course, were impossible terms—Lord Salisbury had shown that there was some hope of some of the ideas cherished by the Republics being accepted in some form or other by Her Majesty's Government. Then I come to the proclamation by Lord Roberts annexing the Orange Free State. What does that say? It says that it was expedient that the Orange Free State should be annexed, and should form part of Her Majesty's dominions. This proposal was not prefaced by any statement or any declaration stating the grounds for such annexation, and there was no communication with the Orange Free State, so far as I can trace, at all on the question. There was simply an absolutely autocratic statement that the Orange Free State should cease to exist, and that it was expedient that it should be annexed. [Ministerial cheers.] Hon. Members opposite cheer that statement, but is there any State document of a similar nature recorded in history which does not preface such annexation by a statement of the grounds on which such a policy is declared to be expedient? But will this policy of force be successful? Will the Transvaal and the Orange Free State be peaceful countries when you have completed this work of military ascendency. But your problem, as you put it yourselves, will be to assert the supremacy of a peaceful, industrial community of Englishmen, Germans, Frenchmen, and others over perhaps the fiercest, most determined, and most dexterous fighting community in history, as the Boers during this war have proved themselves to be. We know that before the war the Uitlanders were reluctant to become citizens of the Transvaal because they incurred military responsibilities, and they were equally reluctant to join in the agitation and the revolution planned by Mr. Rhodes, because their only desire was to be let alone to acquire wealth and bring it away with them to this country. Do you think that the prevailing spirit will not be exactly the same when you have restored order in the Transvaal? Do you think when the Uitlanders have returned to their occupations that they will not be just as reluctant to be turned into soldiers, against their habits and choice, and against their interests, as before? Do you think they will hold their own with such a warlike and enterprising race as the Boers? It is suggested that you may turn your soldiers from the colonies and elsewhere into settlers in South Africa, and some of them are to form a garrison to maintain British supremacy in the Transvaal. I should like any hon. Member who attaches any importance to that proposal to read the article written by Mr. Edward Dicey in one of the recently published reviews. If they know anything of the subject, they will know that it is practically impossible to make agriculture a paying industry for Englishmen in the Transvaal. It is an insoluble problem, the difficulties of which cannot be surmounted. You may spend money in planting those men there and equipping them, but the only result will be that in a very short time the men you have planted on the soil will drift into the towns and become hangers on at public-houses. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh!"] If they cannot carry on the agricultural industry successfully it is economically certain that they will drift into the towns and become waifs and strays. You have turned out all the Dutch railway men, and I think, if they committed no acts of war, that was a very questionable policy. You may create a few industries, and get employment for a few Englishmen in that way, and in that way your garrison might be strengthened; but is it possible under this *régime* of force and this idea of suppressing the vigour and vitality of a race which has been keeping England at bay for eleven months that any scheme of that kind without the presence of an enormous army from England will succeed in curbing the impatience of this resentful race, eager and capable of initiating at some time or other, probably when England may have her hands full with difficulties in other countries, a policy of revenge for what they consider the grave injustice to which they have been subjected. I believe there is only one cure for this state of things which is likely to bring about amicable relations between Englishmen and Dutchmen, and which will save England an enormous expenditure of life and treasure in dealing with this great problem, and that is to recognise frankly and fully the right of these people to maintain in some form or other that independence of which they are now being deprived. It may be an unpopular, and it certainly is an unfashionable, doctrine at this moment to support the policy of Mr. Gladstone in 1881. I am one of those who believe that that policy is the only true policy having its cornerstone in history and in human nature. But it was carried out under most unfortunate circumstances, and it would have been wiser if Mr. Gladstone had initiated his policy upon his advent to power in 1880. That would have been an intelligible and wise policy in 1880, whereas the moment when it was initiated was most unfortunate, and was surrounded by unhappy circumstances, which detracted from it. Yet, even so, it was not a failure, but had all but effected a complete pacification of South Africa. We have the testimony of many public men upon this point. Mr. Statham, one of the ablest recorders of South African contemporary history, said that this policy was

> "signally successful, as shown by the condition of South Africa in 1887, a year in which South Africa was nearer to political union through the action of natural forces than it has ever been before that date or since."

The House will probably recollect the very remarkable expression of opinion made by Lord Randolph Churchill, who visited South Africa in 1891, and who was at that time largely in sympathy with Mr. Rhodes and his policy. The view he expressed at that time was that, after studying the question, he had come to the conclusion that a mistake had been made in considering that this policy was a wrong policy, and he said—

> "So far from being an impolitic surrender, it had by its wisdom soothed the exasperation of Dutch sentiment at the Cape, and had made a real concord between the Dutch and English races possible."

In venturing to make suggestions from a practical point of view, I wish to do so without offence or irritation to those who take the opposite view of this question. I do not for a moment assert that we can reinstate the same state of things as existed before. That is absolutely impossible, but I do say that we ought to recognise what causes had stood in the way from 1887 to 1889 of the carrying out to successful fruition of Mr. Gladstone's policy, and that the same cases are now still standing in the way, and are preventing us from arriving at the sort of solution which Mr. Gladstone contemplated. What was standing in the way then, as now, is that great conspiracy, of which Mr. Rhodes is the head, to capture the gold mines of the South African Republic and turn the whole place into a gigantic monopoly out of which enormous wealth may be secured for a limited few at the risk of imperilling the happiness and well-being of the many. Having regard to the fact that English tradition points to the preservation of the rights of individuals to private property, I do not suppose that the private property of the Dutch in the Transvaal will be interfered with. You will, therefore, have much the same class of people coming to the front and taking part in the future life of the Transvaal. You will have the same leading Englishmen and Dutchmen gradually resuming their places. In the presence of such conflicting interests and sentiments, why on earth cannot we take this course instead of entrusting the settlement of this difficult question to the one man who has created the maximum of irritation and difficulty in the Transvaal and Orange Free State—Sir Alfred Milner? Why cannot we adopt the wiser policy, which is suggested not by myself but by that eloquent man whose loss we feel so much in this House, Sir Edward Clarke, who said that it would be wiser if some broad-minded and patriotic men were sent out to solve and settle and determine these tremendous issues and bitter controversies in South Africa in a generous spirit, and so arrive at a solution which would bring Dutchmen and Englishmen into harmony in the future? That is the solution for the immediate future of the Transvaal which I venture to suggest. What, again, is the issue between the Government and the wiser leaders in Cape Colony, between the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Schreiner, who has so admirably and so temperately represented the composite and conflicting interests there? Mr. Schreiner has made a suggestion to Her Majesty's Government that the same policy should be adopted in dealing with these dangerous and perilous issues in Cape Colony which Lord Durham so wisely adopted years ago in Canada. On the other hand you have this policy of refusing to listen to any of the demands of the Dutch people and of laying down the principle of lifelong disfranchisement and universal punishment. We know very well that the lifelong disfranchisement advocated by the right hon. Gentleman—which he said was not a punishment too severe to apply to the Cape rebels—has been practically overruled by the Ministry which has succeeded Mr. Schreiner's Ministry. What was really the suggestion which the Cape Ministry laid before Her Majesty's Government? It was that they should adopt Lord Durham's policy. Lord Durham in Canada was face to face with a similar exasperation of one race against another, and face to face with the same vehement denunciation of anything like clemency for the beaten French majority. And what was his decision? His decision was absolute pardon and amnesty for all but a few. Even those individuals who were sent out of Canada at that time were able to return within three or four years, and were actually elected to the first Dominion Parliament after the Union Act of 1840. Lord Durham as keenly appreciated the necessity of securing the ascendency of the British race and of British policy in Canada, as the right hon. Gentleman or Sir Alfred Milner does in the case of South Africa, but Lord Durham absolutely refused to secure the supremacy of the British race by tactics or proposals which would be liable to be represented as an electoral fraud, depriving the people whose fate he was determining of the right to share in the government of their country. He looked to the influence of perfectly equal and popular institutions in effacing distinctions of race and removing disorder and oppression. That is also the suggestion from Cape Colony to the British Government, and it seems that it is to be practically pushed aside. I may, perhaps, be treading on dangerous ground in even alluding to measures which are now actually under discussion in the Cape Parliament. I would be the last man to say a word which would be prejudicial to the interests of Cape Colony, but I ask whether it is not plain that the course of events is now being controlled from Downing Street, and on that ground only I venture to lay before the House of Commons some considerations as to the policy we should adopt in South Africa with regard to the Cape rebels, and that that policy should be the policy of Lord Durham instead of the policy laid down in the last Blue-book. One of the strongest arguments advanced by the Schreiner Ministry in the Minute they laid before Her Majesty's Government was that it was undesirable to punish wholesale, as the universality of such a punishment would rob it of its deterrent effect by converting a grave sentence of the law into a measure of political vengeance. That is an argument of enormous strength which should receive the fullest consideration of the Government. Mr. Winston Churchill, who seems to have inherited the keenness of insight and the courage of his brilliant father, in dealing with this question, advocated a generous and forgiving policy to these unfortunate men, who, he said, were only traitors in the legal sense, and had obeyed a natural instinct in joining men of their own blood. [HON. MEMBERS: Oh!] I am quoting Mr. Winston Churchill, who, I believe, is a not undistinguished member of the party opposite, and I venture to think that the breadth and generosity he has shown in the letters he has written about the war will stand to his credit, no matter to which party he may pledge himself in future. I would wish to press this further point. There are more than 450,000 Dutchmen in Cape Colony, but it is only alleged in the Blue-book that 10,000 of these men have been traitors, some of them in the comparatively venial sense described by Mr. Winston Churchill. We have now to consider this fact. Owing to the wisdom of Mr. Schreiner and many other leaders of that side of politics in the Cape we have the vast mass of the Dutch in Cape Colony standing loyal to this country and absolutely abstaining from joining in the war. That is a tremendous fact, especially when it is remembered that the universal opinion among the Dutch in South Africa is that the war was unjust and unnecessary, and that though begun on the pretext of franchise, it was really directed towards the extinction of the independence of the two Dutch Republics. Are we to offer no reward or show any consideration to the vast number of loyal Dutchmen in South Africa who have remained loyal to this country? Would it not be a wiser policy to reward their loyalty by a generous policy and not by a policy of wholesale disfranchisement? A policy of this kind is not a policy of punishment, as was pointed out by my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition the other day. It is rather a policy of political proscription, and the result can only be the creation of a new race of real Dutch helots in South Africa, when the war was started on the sham plea of rescuing British helots. The raid is fresh in the minds of many hon. Members. What happened then in regard to the rebels who rebelled against the perfectly lawful authority of the Transvaal Government, and who were just as much rebels as are the Cape Dutch to-day? I remember the Colonial Secretary praising the magnanimity of President Kruger in refraining from punishing those men with the extremity that he was by the laws of the Transvaal and by International law fully and absolutely entitled to use against them. The right hon. Gentleman now mocks at the idea of allowing red-handed rebels in Cape Colony to enjoy the franchise any longer or to share in the government of the country. But what did he do then? Within a few weeks of President Kruger amnestying these men the right hon. Gentleman recommended a series of reforms, one of the very first proposed of which was the extension of the franchise within the Transvaal to the very men who had acted as red-handed rebels, and had revolted against the perfectly lawful authority of the Transvaal Government. That seems to me to be a salient illustration of the unreason of this policy. In working this noble instrument—the British Empire—which ought to be used for the advancement of human happiness, human freedom, and human welfare throughout the world, we should remember the simple doctrine, "Do unto others as we would they should do unto us," and that every other race has an equal right to live and enjoy the full benefits of being upon this earth. If we deal with all races and all questions in that spirit I venture to say we shall not have so often displayed the bitter animosity against this country which now prevails, and that we shall have more often words like the noble words Kossuth uttered at Southampton, when welcomed back in 1851, after the glorious struggle that he made for the liberty of Hungary. Kossuth then said he had learned to look always on England as the Book of Life that taught the nations how to live. Are we now to make England, at the end of the nineteenth century, the Book of Death to individual and national liberties, and a bye-word among the nations for suppressing a spirit which, after all, is worthy of admiration and respect? I do not know whether any words of mine will have the least weight with this House or with Her Majesty's Government, but I have tried, so far as in me lies and without offence, to lay before the House what seemed to me to be some reasons for adopting a more generous policy towards these people than that which has been put forward, not forgetting the wrongs they may have done, but striving to remember this fundamental truth, that the best way of curing these evils is by elevating, not by crushing, the human race. I venture to say that if we turn to the lessons of the last century, looking first to the policy of Lord North, and, forty years later, to the noble results of the wiser and more generous policy of Lord Durham, we should remember in dealing with these Cape rebels the lessons of Lord Durham, and deal with the grave difficulties in the Transvaal in the manner indicated in the weighty and wise words uttered at the commencement of this session by Sir Edward Clarke.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present (Dr. TANNER, Cork County, Mid). House counted, and forty Members being found present,

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I do not intend to follow the hon. Member who last spoke, in his remarks upon the situation in South Africa, or to say anything that could have been said during the session on any Vote of Supply or in any debate that has taken place. I wish to take the only opportunity of the session to say a few words on the general question of Imperial defence. The procedure of this House is such that this is a question absolutely precluded from being considered as a whole during the session, and it is only on the Appropriation Bill that you can look at it in its main aspects. When the Army Estimates are before the House we pretend that protection against invasion and the defence of the colonies is not a purely Naval question; and when the Navy Estimates are under consideration we are obliged to pretend that no Army exists. Therefore we are precluded from dealing with the broad principles of British defence. What I chiefly want to touch upon is the fact that while the procedure of this House debars discussion on the general principles of defence, there is no Minister and no Department of the State that is responsible for dealing with British defence as a whole. The defence of the Empire is worked in several water-tight compartments. The Army is worked on one line, the Navy on another, the defence of the colonies is carried on on independent lines, while there are several armies under the Foreign and Colonial Offices. In addition to that there are military forces in all the self-governing colonies which can never be touched upon or discussed in the House, except in separate Votes. It is true that we have a Defence Committee of the Cabinet, but that Defence Committee cannot be regarded as responsible to this House for its acts, and its policy—if it has one—can never be discussed here because its members receive no salary as a Defence Committee, and we can never challenge their action. That is the excuse for my troubling the House at the present moment. The most remarkable character about the Appropriation Bill, if you take it over a series of years, is the prodigious growth of the expenditure of the United Kingdom for the protection of the whole Empire; and that is becoming more emphasised and more marked every year. This year, of course, it is abnormal on account of the war, but I am taking the normal expenditure, and the fact was recently dwelt upon with great lucidity by the hon. Member for Dundee. That being so, another question suggests itself, namely, that while this enormous expenditure of the United Kingdom is growing, the trade and revenue of the United Kingdom is not increasing in any corresponding degree. That is a remarkable fact, and justifies my drawing attention to it on the Appropriation Bill. But when I turn to the outside Empire I find a different state of things prevailing. There is no such increase of expenditure in behalf of the protection of the Empire, but there is an enormous increase in its trade and revenue. I do not want to weary the House with figures, and I will merely deal with the self-governing colonies during the last thirty years. During that period the expenditure of the United Kingdom on the Navy for the protection of all the interests of the trade of the British Empire has more than tripled, while the increase of the sea trade of the United Kingdom has not been more than 50 per cent. But during the same period the aggregate sea trade of the self-governing colonies—wholly independent of that of the mother country—has increased by 133 per cent. And be it noted that the sea trade of the self-governing colonies, independent altogether of any interchange with the United Kingdom, is now many millions in excess of the whole sea trade of the Empire of Russia. In the same period of thirty years the increase of revenue of the mother country has not been more than 50 per cent., while the aggregate revenue of the self-governing colonies has more than quadrupled. In fact, the aggregate revenue of the self-governing colonies now is half the entire revenue of the United States of America. Take another point—the dominion of the sea. The protection of sea trade is as vital and necessary to any single part of the Empire abroad as to the United Kingdom. That will not be denied by any colonial citizen. Let me point out how the burden of the protection of this sea trade is borne. Twenty-eight per cent. of the revenue of the United Kingdom is spent on the Navy for the protection of the Empire's trade; and only ·3 or 3-10ths per cent. of the revenue of the whole outlying Empire goes as a contribution to the Navy for the protection of the sea trade of the Empire. In another form, out of every £100 of revenue raised in the United Kingdom, £28 is spent on the Navy; while out of every £100 of the aggregate revenue of the outlying Empire, 6s. per cent. only is paid as a contribution for the protection of its sea trade by the Navy. In other words, the United Kingdom bears a proportion of ninety-three times more of the Navy expenditure than the outlying Empire. I think anyone who has studied this question for some years must be forced to admit that this state of things cannot continue. The point is to find a remedy. We must sooner or later, and I think sooner than later, face this question, difficult and delicate though it be, of the distribution of the burden of empire throughout the Empire. One day you have a naval fever and spend everything for the Navy, and another day you have a military fever, and spend recklessly for the Army. I trust it will be distinctly understood that I am not suggesting that this Empire can be run on the cheap; there must be an enormous expenditure, but I do question whether we get value for our money. The question which I wish to bring to the attention of the House is the contribution to the expense of protecting the Empire. It is a matter which we must take notice of, and cannot avoid taking notice of, and under these circumstances, I think, instead of dealing with the question in bits, as at present, we should have a bigger policy of settled co-operation, and an organised system to provide for British security throughout the world. We can only approach this question in mutual confidence between our self-governing colonies and ourselves. The time has long gone by for anything like dictation on our part, and what we have to do is to take the colonies more into our confidence, and I think the time is opportune for calling a conference for considering the matter. The war has brought this thing to a head. It has given a most conclusive proof that all parts of the Empire mean to stand or fall together. It has established beyond doubt in the face of the world the solidarity of British sentiment and the craving for British union. It has shown that the will of the colonies has outstripped the will of the Ministers at home. It was not a question of the machinery of Government and the suggestion of Ministers, but of spontaneous rush and desire on the part of colonial peoples, that produced the forces from all parts of the Empire for service in South Africa. That broke down all the political theory upon which the government was formed for the colonies. The whole of the constitutions of our colonies only recognised passive defence as the extreme possibility. All that laws recognised was that the forces raised in the colonies were to be used and used only for the defence of their particular territory, but, in the circumstances of the war, a larger view was taken, and the education derived from the war has brought home to the sons of the Empire all over the world the fact that they must look beyond their territory, and can only live in real safety by sharing the common burdens of Empire. They have shed their blood and treasure for the cause of union. They have voluntarily and spontaneously in this war taken upon themselves the burden of Empire, and they have proved their title to more confidence being placed in them, and to be taken more into real partnership with the mother country.

That being so, I appeal to the Government to consider whether, under the circumstances to which I have referred, and when the war is finished, the time has not arrived for looking ahead and looking to the future policy; whether it is not time for the Government to consider the advisability of inviting the colonies to take part in a conference to consider the position. It is said that any suggestions as to holding a conference must come from the colonies. That is an arguable question, which I will not weary the House by entering into, but I must observe in passing that it is only the Imperial Government which knows the dangers that confront our Empire, and knows the real difficulties and strain in which the Empire would be involved in case of war. It is only the Imperial Government which can place before the colonies the whole position of the difficulties and dangers we all have to meet; and to refuse to take action and to shuffle off responsibility by saying they will not ask for a conference, but wait for the colonies to do so, is a shirking of responsibility by the Ministers of this country. No one would propose that the colonies should contribute without giving them some voice in the matter. The question cannot be solved in an abstract way if there is to be absolute combination, as there must be if the Empire is to be safe. There must be an arrangement for bearing the burdens which the defence of the Empire involves. In some shape or form all parts of the Empire should have a voice. The Government thinks the suggestion for a conference must come from the colonies. Now, a remarkable step has been taken by New Zealand. If it is not a hint I do not know what a hint is. The proposal of Mr. Seddon, the Premier of New Zealand, is, briefly, that Australasia shall raise a force of 50,000 men available under certain conditions for service in all parts of the Empire. The general outline of the proposal puts the expenditure at £1,000,000 a year, and Mr. Seddon proposes that the expense shall be shared equally upon the basis of population or some other basis between the mother country and the colonies; the equipment and munitions of war required shall be provided by the mother country, the colonies to pay 3 per cent. upon the capital charge; and that a sinking fund shall be formed from the difference at which colonial borrowings can be made and the amount at which Imperial loans can be raised. He also proposes that a branch of Naval Reserve and Volunteers shall be drilled on the cruisers on the Australian stations, and he advocates the strengthening of the Australian Squadron, and he concludes by asking that a conference shall be held in the colonies, which shall be presided over by Lord Roberts, if he can be spared, and if not, by some general who has served in South Africa. In that suggestion there is a very broad hint as to what New Zealand and the Australian colonies think about joining hands with us. The necessity of an Imperial conference is shown by the fact that the Navy is thus treated as a sort of supplementary scheme; but the Navy is the paramount necessity of the Empire, and before we begin to raise the military machinery we have to be quite certain that our naval machinery is sufficient for our needs. That shows the necessity for a conference between the self-governing colonies and the Imperial Government, so that the main principles of Imperial defence should be thoroughly understood, and each point dealt with in its own order in the regular way. I hope, therefore, the House will pardon me, upon the Appropriation Bill, drawing attention to a question which grows in importance every day, and which must be faced. How are we going in future to preserve the safety of the Empire without some arrangement by which all parts of the Empire shall participate? I thank the House for having listened to me so patiently, and I should not have troubled hon. Members with these observations if I had not thought there was very great need for a redistribution of the Imperial burdens.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said the hon. and gallant Gentleman had made an instructive and courageous, and at the same time a very temperate speech. The hon. and gallant Gentleman complained that while the defence of the Empire was entrusted to a Committee of the Cabinet, the policy of the Committee could not be discussed in the House because it was not represented in the House as a Committee. But that Committee directed the heads of the Army and the Navy, both of which were represented, and the single comment he had to make was that since the hon. and gallant Gentleman had been speaking no one representing either the War Office or the Admiralty had been present to listen to him. They must have known what was taking place through the usual channels, according to the principle of the Appropriation Bill, when all Ministers were supposed to be in attendance, seeing that every Department could be attacked. He was surprised that a speech by such an authority as the hon. and gallant Gentleman should have received no attention from the heads of the Departments directly concerned. The speech was a courageous one, because at this particular juncture, having regard to public opinion, it required courage upon the part of Conservative Members to expose to the people the system by which an unfair portion of the burden fell upon the United Kingdom. There were two points in the speech of the hon. and gallant Gentleman which he proposed to deal with with regard to the Navy. It could not be denied that the Navy was as available for the defence of the colonies as for the defence of the United Kingdom, and that our expenditure for the Navy in the present year was £30,000,000. Before many years passed, even if shipbuilding for the Navy was not increased, we must look forward to an automatic increase in expenditure, up to, say, £40,000,000. The points he wished to emphasise were that the whole of this expenditure was as much at the service of the colonies as ourselves, and the whole of it was borne by the people of the United Kingdom alone. He did not take into account the small sums paid for the maintenance of the Australian Squadron or the small amounts from Cape Colony or Natal, as in the true sense of contribution they were more in the nature of grants. Taking population as the basis of calculation, the proportion of the contribution towards thirty millions for the naval services common to the United Kingdom and the colonies should be three millions from the Australian group of colonies and three millions from the Canadian Dominion. He would by no means approach any of our self-governing colonies in any spirit of dictation, but surely we could trust their Imperial patriotism so far as to put the facts before them.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I could not help thinking, whilst listening to the speeches which have just been delivered, what we have done, and in what position we have placed ourselves, which has made it necessary to have this enormous appropriation for self-defence. Hitherto we have got on very well, and there must have been something in our consciences to have led to this. I remember in the old days when the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill used to be taken in a few minutes, the Leader of the Opposition, whoever he might be, would make an interesting speech, and the Leader of the House would explain his policy, if he had one. Now we are rather like sheep without a shepherd. The position reminds me of an incident in the Chino-Japanese war. A telegram giving an account of a battle, stated that just at the moment when the battle began a junk was seen proceeding along the coast bearing the Commander-in-Chief to a place of safety. Private Members under these circumstances must do what they can, and the important duty of a private Member is, I think, to discuss how the national money has been disposed of. We have now the most enormous revenue we have ever had, and the most enormous expenditure. I suppose some day the nation will ask us how this money has been expended and whether it has been expended for good purposes. For the moment, the Government may be called the steward of the national funds, and the question for us and the country is, have they laid out that money well and to good purpose? I do not think it has been laid out to good purpose. I do not think £70,000,000 gone for the slaughter of men of the same colour, the same creed, and the same race as ourselves, is a profitable expenditure of public money. When I say £70,000,000, that is what was quoted the other day, but I suppose nobody doubts that before the finish it will be £100,000,000 or more. We have sacrificed that money to a deity whom the Colonial Secretary calls the God of Battles—a deity constructed out of his own ingenuity, for whom I should have no respect at all. If it is a right and noble thing for us to appeal to the God of Battles and to kill all these people, I am always puzzled to know why the natives were not allowed to join in the enterprise. If it was noble, we ought to have invited them to assist. I have never heard any explanation why it was so wrong for natives to join and right for Europeans. I really think, looking at all that has been going on lately, that by this enormous expenditure, by this system of aggression, by this system of attack, by this system of filibustering, we have entered on a course of ruin. If we look back in history, we find that all great military empires have sooner or later collapsed. It appears to me that we are going the same road. I do not altogether blame the Government and the hon. Gentlemen who support them on the opposite side for this state of things. We have done bad things enough on the Liberal side. We have pandered to the military spirit. I look back only about twenty years to our Egyptian policy. We went and interfered with the Egyptians when they had a revolution in trying to reform their own finances. We invaded them, and there were perpetual battles and massacres for many years. Not satisfied with that, when hon. Gentlemen came into office on the other side they must go to the Soudan and out-do us, I suppose. There they had that glorious day when in the space of two or three hours 30,000 men were shot or wounded, and it was supposed that never in the history of the world had more men been killed in the same space of time. That delighted the whole of this Christian country. That rejoicing was joined in, I am sorry to say, by the leaders of the Opposition. Then after that we have this Chinese affair. I was interested in the description of the policy in China which the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave the other day. He described the policy in China as a plum cake policy. Everybody goes and cuts a slice. He does not seem to believe that the Chinese are human beings at all. Now we are meeting with the results of the filibustering policy, in which I do not say we are worse than other nations. All the European nations have been going on in that way. After all this Egyptian policy, Soudanese policy, and Chinese policy, we have this awful war in South Africa—a war which has now become one of crushing out two independent small Republics—a course of conduct which is as bad, in my opinion, as anything Austria ever did in Hungary, or Russia in Poland. Can anybody say that the results we have got are worth all the enormous sums of money we have spent and are spending? Can anybody tell me what human being is the better for this Transvaal war? Myriads are the worse for it. Thousands and thousands have died, and thousands of survivors are suffering torments worse than death from this dreadful policy. The answer to that would be—Well, we have vindicated our power. I suppose we have, but is that a great thing? Is that a glorious thing? Supposing that in a town or village one man was accounted obnoxious, and five men go and kick him to death, do you call that a noble act? In the old days it would have been called a very cowardly thing. In the old days it used to be said, hit a man of your own size. That has all gone now. It is considered the noblest and grandest thing to have sent out an army five times as large as that with which we have had to contend, and we have shown the greatest delight at triumphing over and defeating them with five to one. Why, what are we doing with these wretched people in South Africa? The whole world is filled with horror at the present moment at the conduct of the Boxers in China. What is their policy? To kill foreigners. Well, what is our policy in the Transvaal? To kill all Boers. [Cries of "No!"] Then what do you fight for? Is it not a policy of extermination? [Cries of "No!"] They are going on, and they are defending themselves. I suppose that as long as there is one man left you will fight him. Is not that a policy of extermination? The difference between that policy and the policy of the dreadful people in China is that they are resisting people going into their country, and we are going into another country and killing the inhabitants thereof. There seems to be no desire or attempt to stop this dreadful fighting. Day after day we look at our papers, and read the telegrams stating that so many men have been killed here and so many there, so many made prisoners here and so many there. We read with the greatest equanimity, and seem to think it is a delightful way of proceeding. We do not seem to care how long it goes on. I think that any Government that does not try by negotiation to cease this senseless slaughter is a Government deserving of the condemnation of all just and upright men. I said that this was probably the last time that we shall have an opportunity of discussing things in this way. I dare say it is the last time for many of us. Many here will not be seen again on these benches, and I very likely may be one of them. [Cries of "No!"] Oh, yes; they are not absolutely wise in the north of England. But, I say, that being the case, it is all the more important that any of us who has to make his last dying speech and confession should take care that it should be a true one. You may say that this is electioneering. There was a talk of that last week in the debate on the Supplemental War Loan Bill. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire made a speech which the Chancellor of the Exchequer said was electioneering. I want to know what better thing anyone can do. Honest electioneering does nothing more than undertake to advise our fellow-countrymen what we believe to be right, true, honest, and just, and I do not know that any nobler thing can be done than electioneering in that manner, not for our own profit but for the profit of the nation. What can be said for the Government that has landed us in this awful state of things? Look at what they will say to the country if they speak the truth. They will say, "We have been in office five years, and as the result we have made a hell of South Africa. We have made a filibustering raid on the people of the country to accomplish that result. We have blotted out as far as we can from our policy the word magnanimity. We have made a jest and a laughing-stock of the word.' Magnanimity is nothing more than honour, truth, and justice, and according to the greatest authority in the House of Lords and elsewhere we have contrived to make an atmosphere of hatred regarding ourselves in almost all the countries in the world. I suppose the Government will say quite truly that they did not mean to bring all these evils about. Of course they did not; if they did they would be either lunatics or traitors; but does that exculpate them? Not entirely. A few weeks ago there was a man driving the engine of a London express train. He inadvertently failed to see that the signals were against him, and he ran his train into another standing at Slough. Four people were killed and many were injured. That man's life is blasted. He will never be trusted again. But what have we to say of the Government that has disregarded the signals of danger, disregarded all the warnings, and landed us in a miserable war costing thousands and thousands of lives? I, for one, would far rather be that unfortunate man who drove the engine at Slough than a member of this Government. The point is this. If this Government are maintained in power, if they vindicate all these aggressions they have made, what is before us? Nothing but an endless vista of future war. I know that it is expected that the nation will give its mandate again to this Government. All I can say is, if they do it, so much the worse for the nation. What is the meaning of our confederation together if we cannot oppose this? I say that peace is the very foundation stone of Liberal policy, and if Liberals do not proclaim that principle what are they? Mr. Disraeli long ago said that "a Tory Government was an organised hypocrisy." [An HON. MEMBER: Conservative.] I beg pardon, "a Conservative Government was an organised hypocrisy." I say that if the Liberal party go to the country and put aside their own doctrine of peace, they are nothing more than a disorganised hypocrisy. I speak for myself, and I do not know for how many more, but I know that I speak for a certain number when I say that they will maintain that policy. I say more. However black things may look now, with them is the future. You may call us pro-Boer, you may call us traitors. I remember the lines of Lowell—

> "Call us cowards, call us traitors,
> Just as suit your mean ideas;
> Here we stand as tyrant-haters,
> And the friends of God and peace."

I say here, before the General Election—because I am not ashamed to make an electioneering speech here or anywhere else—I say here in Parliament, as I shall say in the constituencies, that we will protest to the utmost of our power against the gospel of grab which for the last ten months has been preached in Parliament, in the pulpit, and in the press. We will do that, and we will remind our fellow-countrymen that while a great authority has said that "the greatest of British interests is peace," a still greater authority has declared that "it is righteousness alone that exalteth a nation."

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): I am sorry to have to divert the attention of the House from subjects so important in themselves, and which have been rendered so interesting by the three speeches to which we have listened. If I may venture to say so, in regard to the speech of the hon. Member for Cockermouth, while saving the interest of my party, I would hope that the mournful anticipations he has indulged in with regard to himself will not be realised, and that he will return to this House to interest and amuse us with his familiar and genial presence. I feel bound to call the attention of the House at this late period of the session to the position in which the question of the sick and wounded in South Africa is left by the form of the inquiry that has been instituted. It seems to me extraordinary, and, I think, most unfortunate, that a subject in which the people of this country are so deeply interested—more interested, I think, than Her Majesty's Government seem to be aware of—should, in its later and most important phase, have been accorded no adequate opportunity of discussion in this House. It is not my fault if any criticism I may feel bound to offer was not made before in this House—was not made at a time when it might have led, as another criticism led, to an effective discussion. I took the only opportunity that was open to me, and that was through the public press to protest against certain features in the form of this inquiry. The Government, it is true, proceeded to make a change in the status of the Commission, but that change conferred on the Commission none of the powers essential to arriving at a proper conclusion. There has been no opportunity in this House of discussing the constitution of the Commission as a whole. There has been no opportunity of discussing its original constitution by the light of certain facts which were authoritatively denied from the Front Bench, and subsequently admitted. I do not propose myself to discuss the constitution of the Commission to-night, partly because I think it would be more respectful to a former ruling of yours, Sir, that I should not do so, and partly because I for my part have no desire, now the Commission has been constituted and has gone to work, to criticise its personal composition on this occasion. There is another question to which I wish to refer, which is far more important, and for which there has been no opportunity of discussion in this House, and that is the powers with which it goes forth. I propose to show that the Commission has been issued divested of all the powers essential to finding out the truth in this matter; and the great, permanent, humane and national interests involved in this inquiry will be imperilled, if not defeated, by the course that has been taken. The Committee, as it was originally called, has been turned into a Royal Commission. But in announcing that fact the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury stated that the change did not confer upon it either the power to take evidence on oath or power to compel the attendance of witnesses. Well, if that is so, the Committee goes forth with its hands tied behind its back, utterly powerless to push the investigation home. Moreover, it goes forth at the mercy of one side and of one interest in this inquiry, and that the side and interest most involved in its own exculpation. What is the exact position? I have never suggested that the whole blame for the state of things that has existed in South Africa devolved upon the Army Medical Department, but undoubtedly it is largely involved. The watchful and far-seeing energy of that Department in its own defence has become sufficiently notorious. It is not criticising the action of the Commission to say that I could give an instructive illustration of this from the curious selection of witnesses that has been presented to the Commission in this country. Is it to be supposed that this energy in its own defence will be relaxed as the trial goes on? The Commission has gone to South Africa. There nine-tenths of the evidence is under the control of that Department, or of some Department of the War Office; their hand reaches over the whole field of witnesses. Of course, they will organise the evidence and they will choose the witnesses. There is no organisation on the other side of the case. I myself can give the Commission very little assistance, for reasons I will make clear in a moment. On one side you have this powerful organisation; on the other you have absolutely nothing but the voluntary act of individuals, ninety-nine out of one hundred of whom believe, rightly or wrongly, that they will be prejudiced by coming forward. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, when I brought this subject forward on a former occasion, referred me to "the very elaborate precautions which the Commission propose to take for the protection of witnesses," and he proceeded to add that he "doubted whether any statute would give a protection so absolute." What are those precautions? I confess I was amazed, when I read them, at the description the right hon. Gentleman gave. They are two. First, witnesses in Government offices will be freed from their obligation of secrecy with regard to official information. Surely that is an ironical precaution. What do witnesses in Government offices know about the sufferings of the sick and wounded in South Africa? And what sort of evidence are we to expect from offices which contain the very Departments which are on their trial in this matter? The second precaution is that the evidence of those who desire it will be taken in private and their names will not appear. This is no protection at all. [An HON. MEMBER: Why not?] I will tell you. With the Commission holding its sittings, as it will have to do henceforth, in localities where every individual is known, with half a dozen officials at the doors and half a dozen reporters inside, do you suppose you will persuade any man that his name will not leak through to that inner circle of authorities whom he fears. [An HON. MEMBER: No!] My hon. friend says no. Take the case of the private soldier. He will have to get leave of absence to attend before the Commission; his officers and non-commissioned officers will know all about him, and next morning they will not have the slightest difficulty in identifying his evidence and knowing what he said. But the second precaution is open to far graver objection. Do you suppose for one moment that the public mind, which is awake on this question, is going to be satisfied by even a partly secret inquiry, with any of its proceedings carried on in the dark, and any of the grounds of its conclusions wrapped in mystery? The Commissioners in their opening statement went on to say, and the right hon. Gentleman repeated it here——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now about to refer to the proceedings of the Commission itself——

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member began by saying, "The Commissioners in their opening statement" said so-and-so.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will be out of order in referring to the proceedings of the Commission.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: Then I will keep within your ruling, Sir, by confining myself to stating that the First Lord of the Treasury said in this House that if the Commissioners "are substantially hindered from ascertaining the facts by the absence of compulsory powers, they will not hesitate so to report to the Prime Minister and to ask his assistance in procuring the necessary powers." The right hon. Gentleman stated at the same time that the only means of giving them those powers was by Act of Parliament. But the Commission has gone to South Africa, and this Parliament is over. What is the Government going to do? Does it propose to wait till a new Parliament meets or another session opens, and then pass an Act of Parliament when all the most important part of the Commission's work is done? I am sorry to have to detain the House, but I do not on a question of this kind like to indulge in generalities, and it will make my point more clear if I give to the House certain instances which will show how little chance there is of the Commission getting at the truth in this matter. There are many classes of witnesses. In the first place, there are the officials engaged out there. I have here a letter from a responsible and important official out in South Africa, written some time before my article appeared in *The Times*, and entirely independent of it, giving an account, with long and exact details, of the confusion, incompetence, and mismanagement, which resulted in three general hospitals going up to the front, but with the staffs of two, the beds and equipment of one and the tents of another; and the red tape which prevented those three elements being combined for the use of the sick and wounded, who were lying and dying huddled together on the ground in the field hospitals. But at the end of his letter—and this is the point—he says—

> "I trust to you not to give me away by quoting my name. You know what the result would be to me."

Then there are the officers themselves. They may be young officers, but they are none the less watchful, and their testimony is none the less valuable on that account in regard to things they have seen. I will give two instances. The first is an officer who saw with his own eyes and described in detail the horrible sufferings of the wounded at Paardeberg owing to the almost entire absence of everything that was necessary. I thought he would come forward and tell his story; but after a couple of months he says—

> "I cannot give evidence; I am convinced it would prejudice my future career in the Army."

The second is an officer who was able to speak to at least three of the most important incidents to which I myself bore testimony in this House, and who saw many other things equally bad if not worse. I took down this officer's detailed statement in South Africa, and read it over to him. I hoped he would come forward, but he has returned to this country, he has gone into his club, and now he says—

> "I cannot come forward. I know what it would be. I want to get on in the Army. And then there is the regimental feeling. The fellows would say, 'What did you want to come forward for and make complaints?' and I should not be able to stay in the regiment."

Then there are the private soldiers themselves—the rank and file of the Army—whose fear of "the authorities" is traditional, and who look on any and every inquiry as a court-martial. From these I have had plenty of letters—I will not say "innumerable" letters—giving most important details, but all, with hardly an exception, begging that their names may not be mentioned, as they know the consequences. The Commission went down to Netley. ["Oh, oh."] It so happened that I had a correspondent at Netley, a relative of a respected Member of this House, and in every way trustworthy and reliable, who wrote to me giving detailed and very strong statements from several of the men there, and saying—

> "Had I been longer at Netley and set about it systematically I could have had plenty more statements, but directly the soldiers think anything they might say might come out nothing would induce them to speak, as they told me they would only get punished if they complain about anything. I am much afraid the Commission will do no good. If they were disguised as orderlies and lived the life for a few days they would find out the robberies and neglect and inhumanity in South Africa, but just going, perhaps well heralded, will be absolutely useless."

That is from a person who has been constantly for the last month in Netley amongst the patients there. But I do not see much similarity between the statements I have in my possession and the reports of the evidence taken at Netley which I read in the public press. Then there are the doctors or officers of the Army Medical Corps and the Army nurses, who have worked so strenuously, and many of whom have died, under conditions which were unfair and unjust and unnecessary, and to which they ought never to have been subjected, and who would be able to point out how many of those conditions might have been avoided. Apart from the fact that by a sustained misrepresentation my statements have been taken as an attack on the Royal Army Medical Corps, what is the position of the doctors? They depend for their advancement upon a private report of their superior officers. Do you suppose that they would be induced voluntarily to come forward and make complaints? Promotion in the commissioned ranks of the Army Medical Corps comes very largely by selection. Then there are the non-commissioned officers and orderlies of the same Corps. They too depend very largely upon selection by their superior officers; and I do not think I am urging anything unfair when I say that if you have to depend upon those men voluntarily coming forward to make complaints against their superior officers you will not get their evidence. Then there are classes of civilians who have been engaged in these military hospitals. There are the so-called Army Reserve Nurses—a very important class. From these I have many letters giving exact and startling details; but all of the writers with one single exception asked that their names might be suppressed lest they should not be chosen again for work which their bravery and devotion made them eager to obtain. Lastly, there is the most important class of all—the civilian doctors who have been engaged in military work. Most of these belong to that large floating element of the medical profession which very often, through no fault of their own, are without fixed employment, and who are looking to the continuance, in one form or another, of this employment under the Army Medical Department, upon which their livelihood depends. I have taken at random a letter from one of these doctors, written to a relative before my articles appeared in *The Times*, and quite independently of those disclosures, and he states—

> "I assure you that there is a great deal of nonsense being talked at home about the perfect arrangements made for the sick."

—this was written six weeks before my letter appeared in *The Times*—

> "The wounded do better, as there is a certain halo of romance about the thing which is not the case when a poor devil drops out on the march suffering from dysentery, pneumonia, or typhoid. People at home would not believe me if I told them that two days ago eighty sick men passed south through this station in open cattle trucks with no one in charge. They had been travelling by road and train for three days, and had had no food for thirty-six hours. Two of the men were dying."

The doctor's relative who sent me the letter says, "Of course, you will not give the name of the writer." I have other independent letters of the same kind written to relatives and also a large number written to me direct, containing much evidence which would be of the greatest possible use to the Commission, but in all cases the difficulty with regard to disclosing the name comes in. I must give one more case—amongst the civilian doctors. A considerable number of these civilian doctors are endeavouring to obtain permanent appointments in connection with the Army Medical Department. I have a long letter from a civilian surgeon with regard to a hospital not at Bloemfontein—he sends me a copy of correspondence bearing out his statements—which is one of the worst cases that has been brought to my notice. This doctor says that in this hospital there was a complete lack not only of medical comforts but of drugs; that these were easily obtainable close by; and that he applied for them over and over again, but was refused. He says that men died in his hands solely for want of those drugs, and at the end of his letter he states that he is applying for a permanent appointment under the Government, out of which he will be able to make a decent living, and adds—

> "I mention the fact in order that you may know of my position, for I am a married man with [such and such a number of] young children. I cannot afford to let my family starve, and therefore I pray of you not to disclose my name to the authorities."

When I put the case of these classes to the First Lord of the Treasury as persons whose present livelihood and future interests would prevent their speaking out, the right hon. Gentleman replied that "the suggestion was an unmerited insult" to them. To my mind the real insult to these people lies in placing them in a position in which they must either hold back the truth, or suffer—as they believe, rightly or wrongly, they would suffer—personal loss or prejudice.

MR. IAN MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) said the hon. Member had been the recipient of these communications, and had honourably observed the secrecy desired by the writers. But why could not that same secrecy be observed by a judge of the High Court?

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I have already told my hon. friend why in South Africa that secrecy cannot practically be maintained. I have given these cases in order to ask what is the remedy the Government propose for this state of things. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am far from saying that the future interests of these persons would be injured or would be prejudiced by their coming forward to give evidence. My whole point is that they believe they would be so prejudiced, and that that conviction, which cannot be eradicated, will prevent the Commission getting the whole of this valuable evidence. The only way in which this fatal result can be avoided is to relieve them of the responsibility of voluntarily coming forward by giving the Commission compulsory power to call them as witnesses; and I believe there is only one way by which, if they do come forward, you can get at the whole truth, and that is by giving the Commission power to take evidence on oath. There is only one more question, but it is a very important one. How do the Government propose that the Commission shall obtain the evidence of the colonial soldiers who have been invalided home and returned to the colonies? I want to call attention to a very painful incident which I think deserves the consideration of those hon. Members who have been in the habit of making the splendid voluntary aid given by our colonies the subject of the perorations of almost all their recent speeches on the war. I am going to read a letter which is reproduced in the *Western Mail*, an Australian paper, and which has reference to a number of Australian troops who came down from the front to Cape Town and went to Maitland Camp. The letter is written by a well-known resident at Cape Town, an Australian by birth, and was addressed to Sir Alfred Milner. It is dated Cape Town, 22nd May, and is as follows—

> "Sir,—In the cause of humanity, I feel obliged to bring under your notice the treat-

ment received by about 100 sick and wounded Australians and New Zealanders, who are at present in the Maitland Camp. These men are sadly in want of warm and decent clothing, many being without overcoats and blankets, and their repeated requests for these have not been attended to. The condition of these men is such that, were it known to the people of Australasia, I feel certain a big reaction would set in against volunteering for any future campaign. This, I feel sure, is not the intention of the British Government. . . . So bad is the lot of these men (and, no doubt, other Volunteers) that a number of them have been sent back to the hospital suffering from a relapse; besides which the men who are invalids are not fit to sleep on the ground, especially at this time of the year, much less when they are compelled to do so without blankets, waterproof sheets, and a great-coat. . . . There are men at present in Maitland Camp whom the doctor instructed are to have milk diet, but they cannot obtain any milk. . . . I sincerely trust your Excellency will have the condition of my countrymen improved at your earliest convenience.

"I am your obedient servant,
"HENRY McDONNELL."

This letter was asking Sir A. Milner to go and look at the condition of things on the spot, and the House will remember that Maitland Camp is within two miles of Cape Town. The following reply to the above letter was received—

"High Commissioner's Office,
"May 28, 1900.

"Sir,—I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge receipt of your letter, and to say that the matter to which you direct his attention, and of which he was entirely unaware, appears to be exceedingly serious, and will receive his immediate attention."

The paper goes on to say that the circumstances under which these men departed for Australia were—

"regarded as the most serious fault of the Imperial authorities. At two o'clock on the day the 'Australasia' left Cape Town, the Australians who lay in their beds at Woodstock Hospital were told that they would have to leave for their own country in two hours time. Many of the men had not been out of bed for weeks, and few had a penny, though much was owing to them all in the way of arrears of wages, while their outfits were all incomplete. The case of Bottomley, the Queenslander, who is still confined to his bed, was, it is alleged, a particularly serious one, and his comrades pleaded that he might be allowed to remain in the hospital; but the officials stated that they had received their orders, and the men would have to go. It was pointed out that Bottomley could not walk, and that he was absolutely penniless, but the authorities were obdurate. At last some of the convalescent soldiers were able to obtain some money, and to hire a cab for the man, who, it is stated, was regarded as being in a dying condition."

This was in the month of May, at Cape Town—the base of supplies, the depôt of the concentrated resources of the mother country, with all her wealth, and all her welcome of these distant sons of hers. If these things have been done in the green tree, what has been done in the dry? What need to inquire into the doings of Departments at Bloemfontein which have permitted these shameful things at Cape Town? I would ask the right hon. Gentleman if he can give us any assurance that the evidence of these men who have returned to their homes will be taken. And now I will come back to the main object of my speech, and will ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is really too late for the Government, by some means of which I have no knowledge myself, to confer upon this Commission the compulsory powers and the power of taking evidence on oath, which are essential to its carrying on an effective inquiry and arriving at the truth. I venture sincerely to ask the right hon. Gentleman to take a more serious and a little more sympathetic view of this whole question than it appears to me has characterised his attitude towards it hitherto. I ask it on behalf of hundreds of thousands of people in this country who undoubtedly take a serious view of it. I ask it on behalf of our common humanity and of our national strength, of the future welfare of our soldiers, and of the popularity of the military service among those classes from whom the rank and file of the Army, who have suffered most in this matter, are drawn, and in a country which must always depend for its military strength on the voluntary spirit. I have felt bound to criticise the inherent defects of the form of this inquiry instituted by the Government. If the party system in this country has come to such a rigid phase that it is not permitted to a Member of Parliament to take that attitude when a great national object is in view, it is a bad thing for the country. I do not believe that the party with which I have acted will so far fall from their legitimate position of representatives of the people of this country as to treat perfunctorily or petulantly a subject which involves great humane and national interests.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down ended his speech with a lecture addressed to myself in the first place and my colleagues in the second place, and to the party of which he professes to be a member, for our want of sympathy with the cause which he has advocated—all but himself. [Opposition cries of "Oh!" and an HON. MEMBER: Hitting below the belt.] If the hon. Gentleman accuses me or any other Gentleman on this side of want of sympathy with the wounded and suffering in South Africa, he has shown himself utterly unworthy of the party to which he belongs or with which he pretends to act. What does the hon. Gentleman found his accusation of want of sympathy upon? What is his basis? Is that an accusation to be lightly hurled by a member of a political party against the rest of his party without justification? What is the basis of it? If the hon. Gentleman wishes to interrupt me I am quite ready to sit down.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: Sir, what I stated was that, in my opinion, the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman—not the party—had shown a want of sympathy upon this question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman confines his attack to myself, apart from my colleagues, I can afford to treat it with contempt, and I do treat it with contempt. There is absolutely not the slightest justification for it. He has stated no justification for it, and as a mere question between himself and me, as he has chosen to make it so, I do not think it worth while occupying the time of the House upon it. Very well; I pass from that purely personal question, in which I take no interest, to the larger issues which the hon. Gentleman has raised in the course of his observations. I should never have gone beyond those issues had not the hon. Gentleman chosen, in the concluding words of his speech, to make a most unwarrantable and outrageous attack upon myself. Now, Sir, the hon. Gentleman, as I understand him, bases his attack upon what has occurred upon the character of the Commission which has been appointed; and what is his attack upon the Commission appointed? As far as I understand, it is confined to the assertion that as that Commission is incapable of taking evidence compulsorily and upon oath, it cannot carry out its duty. The hon. Gentleman appears to me to have utterly misunderstood both the history of previous Commissions in this country and of the legal powers we could have given this Commission. There have been very few Commissions in this country which have had the powers he asks to be given in this case. [MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: There was the Pigott Commission.] The right hon. Gentleman the late Home Secretary, whom I see opposite, appointed a Commission to look into a most critical collision which took place between the police and people connected with a strike—a collision in which lives were lost, and in which party passions were violently aroused—I do not mean political party passions. Was that a satisfactory Commission? It was a Commission precisely of the kind which this Government has appointed to look into this matter.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: Is the right hon. Gentleman speaking of the Belfast riots?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I am not. If the hon. Gentleman had been listening to me he would have known I was not speaking of the Belfast riots. I was speaking of the late Home Secretary, who had nothing to do with the Belfast riots. That Commission took evidence, and took it successfully, and the question was fully investigated. There have been many other Commissions equally successful. I want to put this point before the House and the hon. Gentleman. He wishes a Bill to be brought in to make this a Statutory Commission—like the Parnell Commission, I suppose, which appears to excite the admiration of the hon. Member for South Donegal, or like the Commission which inquired into the Sheffield case.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: Will the right hon. Gentleman permit me to state the object of my former interruption? I understand that the Belfast Commission was turned afterwards into a Statutory Commission because it was found that it would not have worked otherwise.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that is possible, though the facts are not present to my mind; but I do not see how the interruption is relevant, because I never made any allusion to the Belfast riots. The Commission I was referring to was that which had to do with the Featherstone riots. But supposing we had a Statutory Commission. That statute could not be extended to the Cape, it could not be extended to Australia. It would have had no power to compel witnesses to come from either of those countries. [HON. MEMBERS: Why not?] Of course, I do not say this House has not a right to override—— [Nationalist cheers.] Clearly, the hon. Gentleman's allies are on that side. This House, of course, has power to suspend the constitution of every self-governing colony. Are those the powers you wish to exercise? This Legislature has the power, and it is the only Legislature which has the power to appoint a Statutory Commission. This Legislature has the power, no doubt, to override every self-governing colony in the Empire; it has the right to pass what laws it chooses for any part of the Empire; but such a thing has never been heard of in the history of this country since self-governing colonies were established, as that this Legislature should pass a statute to compel colonial witnesses to attend upon a Commission appointed by this country, and to give that Commisson the power to administer an oath. This is the policy which I understand the hon. Gentleman seriously advocates with the assistance of hon. Gentlemen opposite. In the first place it is an impossible policy, and in the second place it is a futile and absurd policy even from the point of view of the hon. Gentleman himself. What are the hon. Gentleman's objections to the Commission that has been appointed? His objections are these—that the witnesses are afraid to give evidence, that whether they be soldiers or civilians their cowardice is such that no protection given to them by this Commission—anonymity, secrecy, anything else—is sufficient to enable the truth to be extracted from them. That is the hon. Gentleman's objection. Before I comment on the character which the hon. Gentleman gives to our soldiers and civilians of this country in South Africa, let me ask him how that difficulty would have been got over by a Statutory Commission.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: If the right hon. Gentleman asks me the question I will answer it. I have already answered it in my speech. I say if the Commission have compulsory powers to call witnesses it relieves the witness of all responsibility for coming forward; and if they have powers to take evidence on oath the witness must, of course, tell the whole truth.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What the hon. Gentleman pointed out to an astonished House was that the fear of consequences in the minds of these witnesses was such that they could not be expected to tell the truth. I want to know how that is to be cured by the Statutory Commission which he desires, even if the Statutory Commission had, or could have, powers of calling witnesses in South Africa or in the colonies, as the hon. Gentleman appears to desire. I have heard—not often, I admit, from these benches—but I have heard in this House attacks upon the moral courage, upon the honesty, upon the probity, and upon the public spirit of our soldiers and civilians, but I have never heard an attack from any quarter of the House like that which the hon. Gentleman has thought fit to make.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I repudiate absolutely the suggestion. I made no attack. I gave specific instances of men who said they were afraid of coming forward and making their names known.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We differ, I suppose, as to what an attack consists of. I call it an attack upon a man to say that he knows the truth but dare not say it. The hon. Gentleman does not call that an attack. However, we need not quarrel about words. All I meant to indicate to the House was that the hon. Gentleman had scattered broadcast the accusation over both civilians and soldiers serving us in South Africa that they were afraid to come forward, that they were afraid to tell the truth, because of the consequences to themselves; and, not content with attacking them for this incredible meanness and cowardice, he accused their superiors of not less meanness, not less incredible meanness, in suggesting that honest evidence honestly given would destroy the chances of a man being promoted.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: As the right hon. Gentleman continues to make these accusations against me, I must answer them. I particularly stated that I did not believe that these would be the results to these witnesses; the point was that they feared that those would be the results.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I withdraw absolutely my charge that he accused the authorities of the incredible meanness of which I thought he had accused them. I withdraw that. All he does is to accuse the subordinates, the witnesses, of the meanness of fearing the result and of the folly of supposing that the result would ensue. I do not know that he makes his case much better, though I am very anxious not to misrepresent him. I must say that the hon. Gentleman is peculiarly unfortunate in the character of his correspondence. He has read out a certain number of letters. He tells us that they are mere specimens of hundreds or thousands.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: No, no.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman opposite will allow the hon. Gentleman to contradict me himself. [Several Hon. Members: He has done so.]

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS: I never said anything about hundreds or thousands.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Innumerable. I do not exactly know the numerical valuation that is to be given to the adjective innumerable—the adjective used by the hon. Member.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS: I did not say innumerable. I said I would not say innumerable.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Many, but not innumerable; but, after all, why should hon. Gentlemen quarrel with me on this subject, considering that the whole case depends upon the number of these letters? If the letters are not representative, what is the use of quoting them in this House? What do they come to? What is the value of them? It is only because they potentially represent hundreds or thousands that they are of any value whatever. If it is merely Mr. A or Mr. B who thinks the hon. Gentleman is a proper representative to send these communications to, it does not matter to me, to the inquiry, to anybody; but if the hon. Gentleman wishes us to assume that the letters he has read out are mere specimens of a vast number which he might have read out, then I say he has a most unfortunate set of correspondents, and, since the time when anonymous accusations were put down in the lion's mouth at Venice, I do not know that any gentleman has been so favoured as the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Gentleman has, I believe, already been called as a witness. He has already given all his own evidence, and he has been cross-examined upon his evidence. Is it a fair use of his privileges as a Member of this House to come before us and the tribunal of the country while the inquiry is still on, after his own examination, when there is no opportunity of cross-examining him or criticising him, and giving this supplementary appendix to the evidence which he has already given? Is that the way he thinks a great inquiry of this sort ought to be treated? Is that the value he puts upon his own evidence? Is that the manner in which he thinks this great tribunal, the House of Commons itself, ought to be treated? If the hon. Gentleman had attempted to take the course he has taken to-night in reference to any case being tried before one of the judicial tribunals of this country, he would have been stopped, first by the Speaker, and if not by you, Mr. Speaker, by the general public opinion of the House. I am convinced that the general public opinion of the House takes the same view of this question that I do. It is not fitting, it is not in the public interest, that at the time when an inquiry is going on we should be debating this question in circumstances in which alone debate can take place in this House, having *ex parte* statements made from this side or that side of the House, without the power of examination, without the power of cross-examination, without having any witnesses before us, and without the power of coming to an impartial verdict. That must be left until we have the result of the inquiry before us. I confess, though I have not altogether approved of the line the hon. Gentleman has taken in this matter, I have entirely agreed with him from the beginning as to the necessity of an inquiry, before he ever raised the question in this House. I have all along taken the view that there should be an impartial and thorough and systematic inquiry into the matter. I have always held that view, and so far I agree with the hon. Gentleman; but when I heard him to-night, after having asked for an inquiry, systematically depreciate the character of every witness that has come before the Commission; when I heard him complain that the truth is not to be expected from the inquiry; when I heard him tell the House that the organisation of the

Medical Department was so rigid in South Africa that nobody would come forward to give evidence; when I heard him state that witnesses were prepared either to abstain from giving evidence or to give false evidence because their worldly career was at stake; when I heard him discredit this inquiry which he has asked for from the beginning—then, for the first time, I began to doubt the evidence the hon. Gentleman himself has given in this House. I am perfectly frank with the hon. Gentleman. I have absolutely believed everything he has told us about the facts he has seen and about the conclusions he has drawn in South Africa, though I confess I thought the picture was probably a one-sided one; but I am sorry that the hon. Gentleman, by the speech he has made to-night, has shown such evident anxiety as to the result of the inquiry that is to be held. I think the course he has taken is not only contrary to every sound Parliamentary tradition, but to every suggestion of common sense. I think that, for the sake of the cause which he himself professes to have at heart, there cannot be a more imprudent procedure than to attempt to throw these unworthy suspicions and aspersions not only on the Commissioners themselves who are making the inquiry, but upon every witness, except himself, who is likely to be heard.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I should never have thought that a discussion on a question of this kind was one which was likely to have excited any party passion or personal recrimination. I should have thought that on a question of this kind no passion or temper, such as we have unfortunately seen exhibited on more than one occasion, would have been displayed. I regret that from the day when the hon. Member for Westminster made his first statement in the House, there has been exhibited on the Treasury bench an amount of temper which was not creditable to the right hon. Gentleman or anyone holding his position. I think that throughout this business we have been placed in an unfortunate position. The hon. Member for Westminster brings before the public and the House, animated by the spirit of public duty, certain information which he thinks ought to be laid before the House and the country, and as the result of that we have given us, not very spontaneously or cheerfully, a Commission of Inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is mistaken. The Commission was decided upon before the hon. Member for Westminster made a single statement upon the subject to this House.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I am not in a position to know when it was decided upon. I only know when it was announced. The public announcement of the inquiry in this House is what I refer to. When the Commission was announced it was announced with certain powers which many of us felt were inadequate. I think it was unfortunate that the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and those who agreed with him in appointing this Commission, looked upon its scope from far too narrow a point of view. They regarded it as an inquiry into an attack upon the Army Medical administration in South Africa. The reference to it was to inquire into the treatment of the sick and wounded in South Africa, and that was a very narrow reference, and practically referred only to the Army Medical Department.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The reference was to inquire into the treatment of every sick and wounded man in South Africa. You cannot go further than that.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: If it refers only to the medical persons engaged, they are all under the Army Medical administration, and therefore the reference has a comparatively narrow object. The civilian doctors are part of the Army Medical administration and the reference is simply to the treatment of the sick and wounded. This inquiry ought not to have had so narrow an object. I am sure every Member of this House looks upon the inquiry from a broad point of view, as an inquiry which ought to be gone into as the public wish it to be gone into, in order to get at the whole truth as to the treatment of our soldiers and the causes of disease. No charge or attack is made on the Army Medical staff, or on any surgeons employed in South Africa. All it is wanted to ascertain is why these unfortunate soldiers in South Africa did not have adequate treatment. When the right hon. Gentleman said that the hon. Member for Westminster brought a charge of meanness against persons unwilling to come forward as witnesses, anyone who has had the conduct of a public institution knows that one of the most difficult things is to get witnesses to come forward. That difficulty is in the way of every inquiry that is held in connection with any large hospital in the country, or in any large public institution. Still more does it dog the footsteps of a great organisation such as we have to deal with in this matter. But, beyond this, there is the *esprit de corps* which I am glad to say exists in the British Army, to its honour, and men do not like to come forward and make complaints against their associates. Gentlemen who have been in South Africa have spoken and written to me in the same spirit as the hon. Gentleman, and scores of others have been written to, and therefore the attack of the right hon. Gentleman on the hon. Member for Westminster is not one which ought to be approved by the House. I have no question of party consideration in this matter, and I never had. I have always looked upon it from the point of view of the humanity which belongs to my profession, and I have never desired to obtain the slightest tittle of party advantage out of it. But I desire that it should be sifted to the very bottom in order that we should get at the truth, and that we should have full knowledge of why these heroic soldiers were allowed to die in those bell tents at Bloemfontein under shockingly bad conditions. That is a thing which every citizen has a right to know, and to demand that it should be probed to the very bottom. The whole question is a much bigger question than it has appeared to the House in the speeches that have been delivered. We have had in this unfortunate campaign in South Africa an amount of disease beyond the ordinary experience of such wars. Up to 7th July we have lost more than 3,000 from typhoid fever, and tested by the percentage of mortality given by Lord Roberts, that means that there have been between 15,000 and 16,000 cases of this disease among our troops in South Africa. I am understating rather than overstating the figures, for I believe more than 3,000 have died up to this time. The records have been published up to the 7th July, but since then many others have died of this disease. It is an enormous blot on this campaign that we should have something approaching 15,000 cases of typhoid fever among our troops, and it shows that there must have been something wrong in the medical administration in South Africa that no provision was made against this almost certain outbreak of disease, although the War Department was warned in the public press and by other means that such an outbreak would take place. The fact is, that every village and town that our troops had to march through was known to be a source of infection and disease before they arrived, and yet under these circumstances adequate precautions were not taken to prevent its spread. The result is, that if we compare the deaths from disease up to the present time and the deaths from disease in the Franco-German War we find that we have lost from disease a much larger proportion than the Germans lost. The German army consisted of 887,000 men, or four times the size of our army in South Africa. Up to 7th July—and it is now even worse—we lost 20·7 per thousand of our men from disease, while the Germans, with all the rigour and severity of the winter around Paris, lost only 13·7 per thousand. That shows that our administration is faulty, that something is wrong in the medical administration of the army in South Africa, and that the cause of this outbreak ought to be inquired into by this Commission. What I complain of is that the right hon. Gentleman, in drawing the reference to the Commission, did not make it sufficiently wide to enable the Commissioners to inquire into the causes that brought about this enormous prevalence of preventable disease among our soldiers, in order that we might be in a position to avoid a similar condition of things in any future campaign for the benefit of the men who fight for their country. Finally, I would say as regards the whole position that this is an example of the want of foresight which the administration has shown throughout this war. The same spirit that led them to cable to the colonies that they wanted infantry and not mounted men, has brought about loss of life among our soldiers. The same want of foresight that led them to think that 40,000 or 50,000 men would suffice to finish the war, is the same want of foresight that has brought about this disaster to our soldiers. From the beginning to the end of this campaign the Government have not shown adequate foresight, either in the management of the war or in taking precautions for the protection of the men whom they sent out to fight.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): I wish to say that I believe that this Commission will arrive at a proper conclusion. I venture to say that no soldier would look at this question as reflecting solely on the Medical Department. It is a question whether what my hon friend the Member for Westminster saw at Bloemfontein was caused by the Medical Department, or whether it was unavoidable, or might have been avoided by some different arrangement of transport. There are two parties interested in the case, the staff of the Army and the staff of the Army Medical Department, and between the two the Commission will, I am sure, arrive at the truth.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I desire to offer a few observations to the House on a single point, namely, the condition of the troops now serving under General Rundle in South Africa. I should not have troubled the House with the matter if I had been met fairly and reasonably by the War Office. I asked last week and again to-day for some information as to the condition of these troops, who upon credible testimony have been reported to be starving. I asked also whether even now at the end of three months any steps had been taken to provide these troops with adequate food. I received an answer which I will not characterise as I think it deserves, because if I did I should probably exceed the limit of Parliamentary debate, but it was not answer that should have been given to a Member of this House on an important subject, and I may add that the substance of the reply was not helped by the jaunty manner in which it was given by the Financial Secretary to the War Office. The substance of the reply was that the War Office knew nothing of the condition of General Rundle's troops, and that they did not intend to inquire. This is a matter which has excited the most painful interest and anxiety in the public mind, and especially in the minds of those who have relatives serving under General Rundle, and in those circumstances I do submit to the House that the answer which I received showed something very like callousness of feeling towards our brave private soldiers in South Africa, and also a want of respect towards this House and the country. It is monstrous that the War Office, which is discredited and mistrusted by the nation, should adopt an arrogant tone of this kind when a simple inquiry is addressed to it by a Member of this House with regard to the condition of troops who, as I have said, have been, on credible evidence, reported to be starving. If the House will stand that from the War Office, it will stand anything. A description of the troops serving under General Rundle for the last three months inevitably recalls to mind the description of our troops in the Crimea now nearly half a century ago. I limit this inquiry to the special case of the troops serving under General Rundle, but I am not at all sure that the case of those troops is an exceptional one. In fact, I have been assured by those who are far more likely to know than I am that the case of General Rundle's troops is not an exception. I desire to limit my inquiry to that case, however, for the simple reason that I have in my possession an extract from a letter written by a soldier serving under General Rundle, and I thought, also, that by limiting the matter in this way it might be possible for me to give a precision to the inquiry not possible, for me at least, in the case of other troops. I therefore come to the actual condition of the troops under General Rundle. In the first place, before I refer to my private information I should like to draw the attention of the House to an account given of the condition of the troops by a distinguished and very accurate correspondent—I mean Mr. Hales, the war correspondent of the *Daily News*. On the 30th July the *Daily News* published a long letter from Mr. Hales, dated the 11th July, which stated—

> "The men are absolutely starving. Many of the infantrymen are so weak that they can barely stagger along. They are worn to shadows, and move with weary, listless footsteps. . . . General Rundle faces the work in front of him with men whose knees knock under them when they march, with hands that shake when they shoulder their rifles—shake, but not with fear; tremble, but not with wounds, but from weakness, from poverty of blood and muscle, brought about by continual hunger. Are those men fit to storm a kopje? Are they fit to tramp the whole night through, to make a forced march to turn a position, and then to fight as their fathers fought next day?"

That is how Mr. Hales described the condition of the troops. I have an extract from a letter written by a private soldier in a famous regiment now serving under General Rundle. It is dated the 24th April, and he says—

> "We are nearly starving. We have not seen a piece of bread for three weeks, and we have been living on biscuits about the size of Spratt's dog biscuits, which contain bran instead of wheat."

On the 20th May he wrote that the allowance of biscuits per man per day had been reduced, and that the troops were fairly starving. The letter continues—

> "The other day they gave us one and a quarter biscuit to last us for the day. Next day was worse—a half pint of warm coffee for breakfast, but nothing else. I have been so hungry that I have eaten tea-leaves after they have been used."

Referring to the day on which the battle of Senekal was fought, he says—

> "We got up at 3.45 a.m. Breakfast consisted of one and a quarter biscuit per man; then we marched and arrived at camp at 10 p.m., having been without food or water for eighteen hours."

On the 26th June he states that things were as bad as ever, though they then had received tents, having previously had to sleep on the ground without any protection from frost, cold, or wet, and on one occasion he states that his coat was frozen to his back. The only practical question which the House has to consider is, was this state of things necessary or inevitable? I suppose that we shall have the usual answer from the War Office that it was inevitable. Mr. Hales has, however, anticipated that reply. He said that General Rundle's troops were not isolated, and that supplies could be got to them. He asks what became of the provisions, and he answers, "Ask at the snug railway sidings," and he adds that with ordinary management the food which had been got to Cape Town ought to have been within easy reach of our troops. Let us see how it stands with regard to General Rundle. General Rundle has been on duty for three months and has a front reaching from Winburg to the Basutoland border. Winburg was the terminus of the railway, and Mr. Hales himself showed how supplies might be obtained, because he himself obtained them. He relates how he rode to Winburg station with a companion, taking with them two Cape carts. They took train at Winburg and went down the line to Cape Town, got their supplies, came back to Winburg and brought the supplies into General Rundle's camp, without an escort. If Mr. Hales and his friend could get supplies in this way, I want to know how it was that supplies for General Rundle's troops could not have been obtained from the same base by the same means. The Under Secretary for War told us the other day, as illustrating the difficulties of getting supplies in South Africa, that it was as difficult as if London were depending on Rome for its food. I respectfully say that that is an inapt and misleading illustration.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): That phrase was used in a letter written by Mr. Burnham, the scout.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I do not quite appreciate the force of the hon. Gentleman's interjection, because the phrase was part of his argument, and he adopted it by way of explaining the difficulties of the position.

MR. WYNDHAM: That was an illustration used by Mr. Burnham, the scout, and I would prefer that the hon. Gentleman dealt with Mr. Burnham.

MR. PICKERSGILL: That interjection is entirely unnecessary and irrelevant. It does not matter who originated the phrase. The Under Secretary was defending his Department, and in order to explain the difficulties of the situation he adopted the expression that it was just the same as if London were depending on Rome. I repeat very respectfully that that appears to me to be an inapt and misleading comparison, for this reason. We know that supplies for the troops arrived at Cape Town, and what we want to know is why, apparently, they had not got further than Cape Town and why they had not got into the neighbourhood of our troops, for whom they were intended. There has been one noble tradition of the British Army, to which I think is to be attributed not a little of its success, and that is that in times past our generals were careful of the food of their soldiers, and they recognised the military truth that "an army marches on its belly." They kept up supplies and fed their men well. In one quarter of South Africa it is only fair to say that that tradition has been kept up. There is one man—a man who I venture to think has received, up to the present time at any rate, scant justice in this country—I mean Sir R. Buller, who has worked on the old lines of keeping up supplies and feeding his men well, and there is accumulating evidence that in other parts of the stricken field in South Africa, under different direction, the men have, to put it plainly, been starved. I want to know how that happens, and who is responsible for it. My object in putting this question to the Under Secretary for War was a very modest one. It was confined to the specific case of General Rundle's command. It was a perfectly proper question, it was couched in proper Parliamentary form, and I was only following the recognised traditions of this House in putting it. I have to complain that to that question I have received no reply. I press for an answer to that question now, and if the War Office is to be allowed to put us off in this jaunty manner, I shall feel that at least I have tried to do my duty as a Member of this House.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member has put a specific question to the War Office, and, as the representative of that Department, I am bound to reply. The hon. Member has taken exception to the replies he has received from my hon. friend and myself; but if he makes complaint as to the answers, I make no complaint as to the question. The question he put as to whether the Government could say anything to relieve anxiety as to the condition of the troops under General Rundle has been present to the minds of us all for eight or nine days. The mail arrived on Saturday and brought letters from newspaper correspondents and others describing how at the time the letters were despatched General Rundle's troops were on very short rations indeed. The hon. Member is not the only one who has received such letters. I have received two or three myself from relatives and friends serving with General Rundle, but I am bound to say that while they described the circumstances they did not accept the conclusion that they were such as could have been easily avoided. They appreciated the difficulties of carrying on a campaign in a mountainous district. The hon. Member has commented on the answer he received that no official information was to hand. That is true. Unless General Rundle—who, by subjecting his troops to these undoubted hardships, has achieved in four weeks one of the greatest successes of the war—had, instead of prosecuting his arduous operations to their successful end, sat down and written his report, it would have been physically impossible for the information to have reached this country. The earliest information reached this country on Saturday, and unless General Rundle had suspended operations in order to write his report it would not have been possible for us to give any explanation. There is an unwillingness on the part of the hon. Gentleman to accept the explanation we gave, and he complains of the tone and substance of the replies he received to a perfectly natural question. No slight was intended to the hon. Member, nor any disregard of the position and responsibility of this House, when I informed him, with, I believe, courtesy, that we had no information until a few days ago. The War Office had no information as to the facts when I answered the hon. Gentleman a few days ago; but having received private letters from close relatives and friends, I was unwilling to withhold the circumstances to which they alluded, and so I added that, owing to the nature of the country and of the operations, General Rundle's troops were exposed to hardship. The questions of fact are hardly in dispute. The hon. Member has said he believed that the troops under General Rundle four or five weeks ago were on half or even quarter rations; but in order to illustrate the difficulties of transport, I may say that when Lord Roberts arrived at Germiston, before Johannesburg, the troops had to be ready to fight a battle without an ounce of food; and if they had not broken into Johannesburg they would have suffered hardships of a most deplorable character. That is incidental, not to this war alone, but to all wars. A daring strategic plan means that the amount of food must be really measured by ounces. So many days were allowed to strike the blow. If it succeeded all was well, like Cromwell's attack on General Leslie at Dunbar, and if it failed, there was a retreat like Napoleon's from Moscow. The question is, has all been done that could have been done in this campaign? That is a question of the most solemn importance, but not one that can be profitably decided on the Appropriation Bill. It must be investigated fearlessly, jealously, curiously, and to its uttermost depths. That is what every man in the House and in the country must feel. But the examination must be made when the evidence is available, and all the reports on the operations are in our hands, in a cold and impartial spirit. It was asked what there was peculiar in these operations and in this country to make it likely that the troops would be reduced to half rations. A glance at the map answered the question. There was the railway fifty or sixty miles to the west of an Alpine district, in which the operations were being conducted; and there were 15,000 troops distributed over an arc of 150 miles. The hon. Member says if the war correspondents at the front could take provisions, why should not the whole army be able to take full rations. I might go a ten miles walk to-morrow with a sandwich in my pocket, but it does not follow that I could find sandwiches and bread and cheese to feed an army of 15,000 men distributed over an arc of 150 miles. There must be an enormous organisation working without a hitch to do that. There was a very good organisation; but it had no direct railway communication, and the supply route by road was threatened by an enemy who had already overwhelmed one isolated force after another. It should be remembered that General Rundle, the circumstances of whose force have attracted attention owing to the last mail which has arrived in this country, was the chief staff officer of Lord Kitchener during the whole of his operations up the Nile. For years everyone at home and abroad had been lavishing praise upon the administration of that campaign as far as the transport was concerned. [Mr. MACNEILL: 'No, no. It was extremely hard work.] The hon. Member really did himself an injustice by these interruptions. Now are we to believe that a man of that capacity, whose transport and food arrangements in Egypt excited the admiration of the whole world, has failed egregiously in South Africa, or that there has been a bad service from the Home Government, or that Lord Roberts would fail to bring that fact to our knowledge? These are things to be studied in the future. Let us find out, if we can, whether better provision can be made for a campaign in a mountainous country, at such an enormous distance from our base, and with only a 3ft. 6in. railway running for 500 miles from our secondary base. All we know is that we have four months provisions for every man in South Africa, and that we have appointed officers whom we believe competent to feed these troops. We realise, as some hon. Gentlemen who have taken part in the debate do not realise, what the work of the Army needs, and I hope that in a few weeks time the work of the War Office in considering the whole campaign will begin.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) said he wanted to ask the President of the Board of Trade several questions with regard to matters which had been discussed in the House on previous occasions. The right hon. Gentleman would remember that some time ago he made a promise that he would insist upon the P. and O. Company complying with the law. He had been anxiously waiting to see what action the President of the Board of Trade would take. He observed from the papers that the chairman of the P. and O. Company had made the statement at a meeting of the directors of that company that if they were to comply with the Act of Parliament, which provided that the lascars should have 72 cubic feet of space on board ship, that would mean a loss to the P. and O. Company of nearly £20,000 a year. That meant that the P. and O. Company had been swindling the seamen at the rate of £20,000 a year. Moreover the chairman of the P. and O. Company challenged the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade to commence proceedings against the company in order to have the law tested. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would be prepared to say definitely what had been done in regard to this very serious matter. He found that thirty passengers on the outward bound P. and O. steamer the "Rome," which arrived at Gibraltar on Monday, had been placed in quarantine for ten days in consequence of two lascars suspected of having the plague having been put on shore from the "Rome" before she left the Royal Albert Dock. The two lascars died, and one of them when taken to the hospital was suffering from plague which it appeared had broken out in the ship in consequence of overcrowding. He had repeatedly pointed out to the right hon. Gentleman the danger not only to the lascars themselves, but to the people of this country, of having the plague brought to our shores in consequence of the insanitary condition in which these men lived on board ship. It now appeared that the crew of the "Rome" had been in quarantine, and one man had died in the Albert Dock and two in the hospital. That ought to tell the right hon. Gentleman thas it was time to take prompt action, and insist, as far as he could, that the lascar seamen should have proper accommodation, and that that accommodation was kept in a sanitary condition. A short time ago he asked the right hon. Gentleman a question with regard to the provisions that were supplied to seamen on board British ships.

He had no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman would inform the House that night that he himself had no control over the quantity of the provision supply to seamen on board British ships. He (Mr. Wilson) would dispute that contention, and prove that the Board of Trade had some control or some right to interfere with regard to the quantity of provisions supplied to seamen on board British ships. This question of the quantity of the provision supply was a very important one. At the present time there were a number of complaints made by shipowners of the desertion of seamen from British ships in foreign ports, and no doubt the shipowners were always ready to blame the seamen for these desertions. They said it was due to drunkenness on the part of the men, and that British seamen allowed themselves to get into the hands of the crimps at foreign ports, and caused a great deal of expense and inconvenience to the shipowners. He would prove that it was entirely due to the manner in which the British shipowners fed the sailors on board their ships. The articles of agreement issued by the Board of Trade, which the crews had to sign, provided a scale of provisions containing twenty-four items — water, bread, beef, pork, preserved meat, preserved potatoes, preserved vegetables, flour, peas, rice, oatmeal, dried fruit, butter, molasses, vinegar, pickles, etc. But if the right hon. Gentleman would make inquiry of his Department he would find that in almost every case, instead of the men getting the twenty-four items provided for in these articles of agreement they only got eight—three quarts of water daily, 1 lb. bread daily, 1½ lb. beef four times a week, 1¼ lb. salt pork three times a week, ½ lb. flour three times a week, ½ pint of peas three times a week, ⅛ oz. tea daily, ½ oz. coffee or chickory daily, and 2 oz. of sugar. That completed the list. He had had the cost of the scale of provisions supplied by British shipowners to the sailors carefully estimated. He ought to say, however, that the men employed on the large liners were treated differently, and were fed liberally and well. He meant the White Star, the Cunard, the Castle, the Union, the Orient, the Shaw-Savill, and the Wilson lines. But outside these liners the sailors were all confined strictly to the scale of provisions he had mentioned, and the cost of it worked out at 3s. 5½d. per week. Did the right hon. Gentleman suppose that it was possible for any man to be content, and remain in the service of these shipowners for any length of time, when fed on such a scale of provisions? Seven pounds of biscuit for a week cost the shipowners 7¼d.; six pounds salt beef (this was remarkable) cost 1s. 3¼d. He questioned very much whether it was beef. That beef was old donkey which was carried over to Antwerp, salted up with saltpetre, and put into casks marked "Best ox beef." It could not be beef. He defied anyone to buy decent beef in London under 8d. or 9d. a lb., and it was impossible to supply beef at the rate of 1s. 3¼d. for 6 lb. Salt pork, 3¼ lb. three times a week, 1s. 0¾d.; flour—the extravagance of the shipowner in supplying the sailors with flour at 1¾d. for the week; peas, 1¼d.; rice, ¼d.; the tea which the sailors get was supplied at 9d. per lb. out of bond, and cost the shipowner 1½d. for the seven days; coffee, 1¾d.; sugar, 1¾d., or a total for the week's supply of 3s. 6d. He had heard sailors say that what they got were dog biscuits, but that was a libel on the dogs, for he found that dog biscuits cost 35s. per cwt., while sailors' biscuits cost only 10s. 6d. per cwt. On board American ships he found a very different state of affairs prevailed. They got a far better provision scale—biscuit, beef, pork, flour, canned meats, fresh bread daily, fresh, preserved, or dried potatoes, tomatoes, peas, beans, rice, tea, sugar, molasses, fruit, pickles, vinegar, corn meal, mustard, pepper, salt, etc. All that cost the American shipowner 6s. 8d. per week. The great difference between the American and the British scale of provisions was that the former was provided for by Act of Congress, and the American seaman knew exactly to what he was entitled and could demand it. But the Board of Trade arrangements were deceiving to the men. The Board of Trade in the articles of agreement provided a scale of provisions which was supposed to consist of twenty-four items. If the men could get that it would be all right, but they only get eight items out of the twenty-four. That was the cause of all the trouble about men deserting at foreign ports. Men who went on board a British ship were expected to work on food which cost 3s. 6d. a week. Of course men could not work on such conditions, and the consequence was that they became disagreeable, insubordinate, and on the first opportunity they deserted the ship. He wanted to know what the right hon. Gentleman was going to do in regard to this matter. He was sure that the right hon. Gentleman could do something. He remembered when he tried to get a proper provision scale passed by Act of Parliament the Board of Trade opposed it on the ground that that was a matter that ought to be left to the shipowners. The shipowners had had the matter in their own hands for the last five years, and instead of there being an improvement things were gradually getting worse. He maintained that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade could send out a circular to the shipowners calling attention to the fact that they had only provided for eight articles of food out of the twenty-four in the articles of agreement, and recommending the shipowners to carry out the articles of agreement. He had no doubt that that would do some good, and if it did not have the desired effect the right hon. Gentleman could bring in a Bill next year to regulate the matter. There was another question to which he wanted an answer from the right hon. Gentleman. He had repeatedly called the attention of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office to it, and he was glad to see both the President of the Board of Trade and the Under Secretary for the Foreign Office present, because they might be able to give him some satisfactory answer. He had repeatedly called the attention of the Board of Trade and Foreign Office to the fact that a number of Her Majesty's Consuls in foreign ports had taken upon themselves the responsibility of imprisoning British seamen without any trial; and he wanted to know from the right hon. Gentleman what law in this country gave power to Her Majesty's Consuls to have seamen arrested, and kept in prison without trial. The right hon. Gentleman was aware of one of the cases to which be referred, because he brought it under the notice of the Board of Trade four months ago. A man named Gardner serving on board the ship "Dalblain," seemed to have some grievance with his captain. The men employed in discharging cargo at Iquique made a kind of piece task that they would load a certain number of lighters alongside, and when finished that they would do no more work until fresh lighters arrived. The captain came on the scene, and wanted to know why the men were not working, and ordered Gardner to go over the side and paint. Gardner said—

> "I have done my share of the contract, and won't do more until the fresh lighters have arrived."

The captain went ashore and arranged with the Consul that the police should go on board and arrest the man and put him ashore. Whereupon the Consul sentenced him to twenty days imprisonment. At the end of that time, when he was let out of prison, the man was conveyed by the police on board ship, and at the end of the voyage the captain added insult to injury by charging the man £10 for prison expenses. The right hon. Gentleman promised to communicate with Iquique, and he wanted to know from the right hon. Gentleman what had happened, and if the Consul had given any explanation of his conduct. He wanted more than that. He had a right to ask the Government to dismiss a Consul from his position who dared to place a British seaman in prison without a trial and to keep him in prison without a trial. That Consul had no power or authority to do anything of the sort. Then he had the case of the ship called the "South Australian." That vessel was lying at Beira, in East Africa. The crew had been employed during the week working from six in the morning to six in the evening. On Sunday morning they were turned out at six o'clock to wash down the decks. Now, he did not object to washing down the decks on a Sunday morning. That was the rule on board British ships, and the men in question did not object; but while the men were washing the decks the chief officer came along and ordered a certain number of the men to take down the derricks. They refused. They were taken to the captain, who repeated the order, and they again refused. Then the captain entered their offence in the official log, and the next morning the men were ordered to go ashore to the Consul. They went to the Consul's office, and were not taken in together. The captain and two of the officers were with the Consul when each man went in. Each was asked if he had refused to do work, and each said that he refused to take down the derricks, but did not refuse to wash the decks. They were ordered on board the ship, and two hours after they had commenced the performance of their duties Portuguese police were sent on board and the men were taken ashore, one to do twenty days and the other four weeks. He had since seen that that Consul had been murdered, and in all probability it was such imprisonment that had led up to it. These cases of imprisoning British seamen in different ports were occurring almost every day, and the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade would have to take immediate steps to prevent them. He had complained many times, and his complaints appeared to make no difference; but he would tell the British Consuls through the right hon. Gentleman who had control over them, that if they continued to send British seamen to prison, a course would be adopted which would bring them to their senses. Writs would be served on the Consuls for false imprisonment, and they would be put to the expense of coming to England to stand their trial and perhaps to pay substantial damages. Then they would know something about British law and how far their powers went. The House and the country had a right to know whether it was with the approval of the Foreign Office that the Consuls were allowed to take a liberty of that kind. It was a liberty that would not be tolerated in this country for five minutes. If any person in this country dared to arrest a person unlawfully he was bound to say that person would be soon brought to his senses. He wanted to know what the Board of Trade intended to do in the matter. Was he to be told again that the Government had no information and that the matter was still under consideration? Another matter he wished to complain of had reference to the Foreign Office. A steamer was stranded on the Turkish coast and the men were compelled to temporarily leave the vessel. Not long afterwards some Turks boarded the vessel and stole the men's clothes and effects. The vessel was afterwards got off, and subsequently the Foreign Office was asked to demand some compensation from the Turkish Government for the loss of the men's effects. He was surprised that this Conservative Government, who prided themselves on their great power and influence in Europe, and who imagined that foreign nations trembled before them, were not able to get any satisfaction from Turkey. They were told that nothing could be done in the matter. Surely the Government might have done more than that. Was that all they could do for the protection of British seamen against brigands on the Turkish coast near the Dardanelles? Was that the best protection they could look forward to? He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some more information with regard to the matter, and he trusted he would be able to say that the Government had not dropped the question, that it was still under the consideration of the Foreign Office, and that strong representations would be made to the Turkish Government with a view to insisting on compensation. He was sorry to say that at the end of the seventh session of this Parliament he could not give the President of the Board of Trade very much credit for having done anything in the way of improving the condition of the seafaring population of this country. In fact, working men in general would be able to give very little credit to this Government for having done much for them. They were too busy with the war, and had no time to look into questions affecting working men. No doubt when the General Election came some of them would be able to remind members of the Government of the fact that in six years they had performed very little for the working classes. The right hon. Gentleman had a splendid opportunity of doing some good for the seamen if he had taken it. The Liberal Government appointed a Committee to inquire into the manning of ships. The Committee sat for two years, and recommended a number of things with a view to improving the conditions of sailors and firemen on board ships. They recommended that no fireman should be called to stoke more than three and a half tons of coal in the twenty-four hours in cold climates and two and a half tons in hot climates. The President of the Board of Trade brought in a Bill to deal with that question. What did the right hon. Gentleman do? His Department issued regulations to the effect that on board steamers of a certain tonnage there should be at least six deck hands—they did not say what deck hands, or whether they should be fully qualified able seamen or boys. As a matter of fact many steamers which were under the regulations of the Board of Trade only kept three able seamen and three ordinary seamen—that was, three boys—and in many instances the boys were first voyagers, who could not steer, and were not competent to keep a proper look-out. When such regulations were issued, the

Department must have been entirely ignorant of the recommendations of the Manning Committee, which went thoroughly into the question. He had seen articles of agreement which did not contain a single word as to the number of firemen and stokers which should be carried. He desired to know if the right hon. Gentleman's Department would insist upon articles of agreement providing for the number of firemen to be carried, as well as the number of sailors. He knew something about the class of men who were engaged as firemen. When the ships got out to sea, two or three hands were taken from the stoke-hole and put into the engine-room to act as greasers—that was, to do engineers' work. There was a revival of the disturbance, and at the first foreign port at which the vessel arrived the men were taken before the Consul and thrown into prison. If the articles of agreement were properly drawn out—as they ought to be—the Board of Trade would see that the number of firemen was properly provided for, and the men would know perfectly well that they could insist on that number being employed. Another serious matter was the discharge of British seamen in foreign ports. The right hon. Gentleman had some power to check this, because the Merchant Shipping Act provided that Her Majesty's Consuls should have the right to withhold their sanction to the discharge of any crew at a foreign port unless the captain could give a proper reason for it. During the three years commencing 1897 and ending 1899 there were 92,000 sailors and firemen discharged from British ships at Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Antwerp. Now these 92,000 men had to make their way to the United Kingdom, and in their places there were engaged 90,000 odd foreigners. They were foreigners who did not reside in this country, and who did not spend the money they earned on British ships in the ports of the United Kingdom. If the seamen were engaged and paid off here instead of on the Continent, at least two millions of money would be spent in British ports. That was a very serious matter, especially seeing that Her Majesty's Government had promised, when they came into office, to place some restriction on foreign immigration into this country. He did not want to be misunderstood on this matter. He was not complaining of foreigners who were resident in this country or who made the United Kingdom practically their home; but he was complaining of engaging 90,000 men in foreign ports and displacing 90,000 British seamen. He trusted that he would get satisfactory answers to all the questions he had asked.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said that as regarded the latter part of the hon. Gentleman's speech, relating to the engagement of foreign seamen on board British ships, he could add nothing to what he had said on previous occasions. The question had been recently discussed in the House and between the shipowners themselves. There was no restriction whatever on the employment of foreign seamen on board British ships, although they much deplored the fact that so many were so engaged, and he would gladly see them replaced by British sailors. But he could not undertake to ask Parliament to legislate so as to compel British shipowners to employ seamen of a certain nationality.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he did not ask the right hon. Gentleman to legislate. What he asked was that the right hon. Gentleman should instruct the Consuls to prevent the discharge of British seamen at British ports.

MR. RITCHIE said that when British seamen were discharged at foreign ports the law provided that they should be sent home. And that was all that the law could do. He was sorry that the hon. Member had used the expression that the P. and O. Company had been swindling and robbing their lascar seamen.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I mean that.

MR. RITCHIE: The hon. Member says he means that. Then anything more unjustifiable could not have been alleged against the P. and O. Company, who maintained that it was quite entitled by law to engage lascars with the accommodation the P. and O. Company provided for them. It was, no doubt, a subject of considerable difficulty, but the matter was now in the hands of the Counsel of the Board of Trade, who were preparing a case in order to get the opinion of the High Court of Justice, and until that was obtained nothing more could be done. The hon. Member had said that the bad quality of the provisions was one of the reasons why so many British seamen deserted at foreign ports. While both the quantity and quality of the provisions served in the great liners were all that could be desired, he was not without the feeling that in some ships the provisions were not so good. But he was not quite sure that the cooking had not something to do with it.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said it would take a very good cook to cook good meals from provisions which cost 3s. 6d. for seven days.

MR. RITCHIE said the hon. Member must be aware that the scale of provisions had nothing to do with it. The scale in the articles of agreement was only a recommendation; it was not laid down as by law. It was a matter of agreement between the crew and the owners of the ship. The Board of Trade had no power in the matter. The skeleton scale which the hon. Member had quoted had been in existence since 1893, and it was proposed to issue a new one in 1901. The seamen had opportunities of complaining if they did not get proper food both as regarded quantity and quality. Their complaints when made were investigated, and if they were found to be justifiable an order was issued, and unless that order were complied with the master of the ship was liable.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said his complaint was not that the men did not get what they signed for. He complained that what they signed for was insufficient.

MR. RITCHIE Why do they sign for it?

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: Because they cannot help themselves.

MR. RITCHIE said that if the men could not help themselves the Board of Trade had no power, as it was a matter of agreement. With regard to the action of the Consul to whom the hon. Member referred, he had received a report from him which he was bound to say he did not consider satisfactory. He had again communicated with the Consul, and if it turned out that he had acted *ultra vires* of course steps would be taken to deal with the matter.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH said he desired to direct the attention of the House to a local matter which might, however, be of general interest, and regarding which he had given notice to the Vice-President of the Council that he intended mentioning it. It was, he thought, one of the grossest pieces of clerical intolerance which had occurred for a long time. The Vice-President was always asking for specific cases; but when he placed a case of a very serious and important character before him the other day the right hon. Gentleman traversed all the facts. In Holyhead there was a Church school which was overcrowded, and the school board made repeated applications to be allowed to build another board school, but all these applications had been refused. On 11th April, Canon Thomas, one of the managers of the Church school, called two pupil teachers—Roberts and Shone—before him. Roberts had been a pupil teacher for three years, and the custom was to sign the indentures when the pupil teacher began to teach. Roberts, however, was denied her indentures of apprenticeship for three years. Did the right hon. Gentleman deny that?

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): Yes, Sir.

MR ELLIS GRIFFITH: Was she denied them for two years?

SIR J. GORST assented.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: Then, for two years Roberts was a pupil teacher, and had not had her indentures signed. He should like to have an explanation of that from the right hon. Gentleman. The real explanation was that these pupils teachers were denied their right until they promised to attend church and Church Sunday-school. No other reason was suggested. On 11th April Canon Thomas called Roberts, whom he had been trying to proselytise for two years, before him, and asked, "Are you willing to go to church?" and she said, "No." Then he said, "I decline to sign your indentures, and will give you further time for consideration." He thought that was an iniquitous abuse of a public position. Subsequently Roberts left that school, though the right hon. Gentleman in his reply to a question seemed to imply that she was still in it. The right hon. Gentleman ordered an inquiry. An inspector was sent to the school, and—would the House believe it—at that inquiry the curate of the parish was present. He did ask the right hon. Gentleman to keep curates out of any inquiries he instituted into the management of these Church schools. In the particular school he was referring to, seven out of nine Nonconformist teachers went over to the Church, and he thought some light should be thrown on the methods which brought about that result. It might be said that he was taking the word of a pupil teacher against the word of the Canon, but he preferred the word of the pupil teacher. The right hon. Gentleman smiled, but he would give an instance of what Canon Thomas did. The choristers of the church had to sign a written promise not to sing solos in meeting-houses or Halls—meeting-houses with a small "m" and Halls with a large "H." Meeting-houses were, of course, the houses of God, and the man who was capable of such conduct as that should not have much reliance placed on his word. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would inquire further why indentures were withheld from pupil teachers in the manner he described. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would not rely on the word of Canon Thomas, who was the accused person, and he was sure when he had all the facts before him he would administer a severe rebuke to the managers of the school.

SIR J. GORST said that no offence of which the Board of Education could take any cognisance had been disclosed.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: Why was an inquiry instituted?

SIR J. GORST said that the Board of Education had no control whatever with reference to the matters mentioned in the hon. Gentleman's question. The hon. Gentleman stated that repeated applications were made to Canon Thomas to sign the indentures in question, but there was not a word of truth in that. The school was conducted in a very liberal manner, because the hon. Gentleman himself admitted that there were nine Nonconformist pupil teachers in it, and the liberality displayed by Canon Thomas deserved more recognition than it had received.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said no doubt the right hon. Gentleman was quite right in stating that he had no right to interfere in the particular matter mentioned; but what they desired to know was how long were the Government to continue giving grants out of public money to schools in which such injustice was permitted? What happened, according to the admission of the right hon. Gentleman himself?

SIR J. GORST: I made no admission.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: The right hon. Gentleman admitted that the facts stated by my hon. friend were correct.

SIR J. GORST: Oh, no.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: On what evidence does the right hon. Gentleman contradict my hon. friend's statement?

SIR J. GORST: On the Report of my inspector, the evidence of Canon Thomas, and the Reports sent to the Education Department.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said he understood that Canon Thomas was not examined at the inquiry, but that he sent his curate. What were the Reports sent to the Education Department? They had not been laid before Parliament. On the main fact, however, the right hon. Gentleman did not contradict, on any evidence the House could accept, the statement of his hon. friend that proved injustice had been committed. Two pupil teachers were concerned; one had her indentures signed because she agreed to teach at Sunday-school, and the other had not because she would not agree to the terms laid down by Canon Thomas. He held that it was a great injustice, and it was no good for the right hon. Gentleman to turn round in a case like this and simply say he was not responsible for the management of the school. The right hon. Gentleman was responsible for the use to which the funds voted by the House was put. The right hon. Gentleman had not said what was the result of his investigation. Was the Canon at liberty to keep the girls dangling for two years for their indentures while all the time he was trying to proselytise them? And was any manager of a school entitled to keep them out of their apprenticeship indentures?

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—RECENT NEWS.

On the Motion for Adjournment:—

MR. BRODRICK: I may read a telegram which has just been received from the Tsung-li-Yamen and communicated to the Foreign Office by the Chinese Minister. It is dated 30th July and runs—

> "Foreign ministers all well; supply of vegetables, fruits, and other food stuffs has been repeatedly made to the Legations. The Foreign Ministers and Chinese authorities are now on very friendly terms. The successful termination of the conference for their conveyance under escort to Tientsin is expected, but on account of the recommencement of hostilities at Tientsin code telegrams for transmission to the representatives are considered undesirable."

The following telegram has also been received from Consul Carles:—

> "Tientsin, 4th August (*via* Chifu, 6).
> "News of Japanese Legation received by Japanese Consul up to 1st August. Advance of allied forces has commenced to-day."

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 7th August, 1900.

JUDICIAL BUSINESS.

Ordered, That this House do meet on Tuesday, the 13th day of November next, at Eleven o'clock, for the purpose of hearing and determining Appeals and matters connected therewith, pursuant to the provisions of the "Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876"; and that during such meeting of the House leave be given to the Appeal Committee to meet.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.

Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Barracks Act of 1890 and Military Works Act of 1897 and 1899 (in substitution of Command Paper 82 of 1900).

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND ORANGE FREE STATE.

Return with reference to each of the Railways in the Orange Free State and in the South African Republic respectively, showing whether such railways belong to the State or to private companies; and also giving the cost or capital value of the same. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of the 8th of March last), and to be printed. (No. 230.)

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Thirty-eighth Report of the Royal Commissioners.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

Thirty-eighth Report of the Inspector, for 1899.

AGRICULTURE (EARNINGS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS).

Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom; with statistical tables and charts.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2499. China (Newchwang).
No. 2500. China (Kiu Kiang).
No. 2501. China (Kiungchow).
No. 2502. China (Amoy).
No. 2503. Japan (Hakodate).

INLAND REVENUE.

Forty-third Report of the Commissioner of Her Majesty's Inland Revenue, for the year ended 31st March, 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INCOME TAX.

Warrant of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated 31st July, 1900, appointing Mr. Samuel Porter Foster to be a Special Commissioner of Income Tax.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 1st August, 1900, declaring Hangchow, Soochow, Shashih, Samshui, and Wuchow to be unhealthy places for the purposes of the Superannuation Acts, 1859 and 1876.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Report of Arklow Harbour Commissioners, for 1899; and statement of accounts.

CLERGY (WEST INDIES).

Return of the amount payable on 5th January, 1900, out of the Consolidated Fund for ecclesiastical purposes in the West Indies.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Accounts for 1899-1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BILL.

COMPANIES BILL.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT (1890) AMENDMENT BILL.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment.

COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.] AND COPYRIGHT (ARTISTIC) BILL [H.L.].

Message from the Commons for copy of the Report, etc., from the Select Committee. Ordered to be communicated accordingly.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed :—

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to.

COLONIAL STOCK BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment. The said Amendment considered (on motion), and agreed to.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

House adjourned at five minutes before Six of the clock, till To-morrow, Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 7th August, 1900.

ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF ITALY.

The TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 31st day of July, as followeth :—

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address. I unite with you in the expression of indignation and deep concern at the tidings of the assassination of my illustrious ally His Majesty the King of Italy, and I will not fail to convey to His Majesty's successor on the throne your sentiment of abhorrence at the perpetration of such a crime, and your sympathy with the Royal Family of Italy, and with the Government and people of that country."

DEATH OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.

The TREASURER OF THE HOUSEHOLD reported Her Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 2nd day of this instant August, as followeth :—

"I return you my most sincere thanks for your loyal and dutiful address expressing sympathy with me in the great loss which I have sustained by the death of my beloved son, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The assurance of your warm interest in all that concerns my family, and the declaration of your cordial feelings towards both myself and them, are a source to me of true gratification and comfort."

PETITIONS.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL.

Petition from Hornsey, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Neath ; Aberavon ; Swansea (two) ; Cwm Avon ; Brynhyfod ; and Harringay ; to lie upon the Table.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Petition from Camberwell, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (MONMOUTHSHIRE) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Swansea (two) ; Neath ; Brynhyfod ; East Finchley; and Aberavon; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Aberavon; Swansea (two); and Neath (two); to lie upon the Table.

TEMPERANCE REFORM THREEFOLD OPTION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Possilpark and Lambhill, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 3rd August; *Mr. Jesse Collings*]; to lie upon the Table.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Thirty-seventh Report of the Inspector [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LUNATICS AND EPILEPTICS IN WORKHOUSES.

Return presented, relative thereto; [ordered 6th August; *Mr. John Hutton*]; to lie upon the Table.

EARNINGS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Copy presented, of Report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom, with Statistical Tables and Charts; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Copy presented, of General Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 356.)

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2499–2503 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1900, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INLAND REVENUE.

Copy presented, of Forty-third Report of the Commissioners (for the year ended 31st March, 1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).

Account presented, of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT.

Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Value of Terminable Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835–6 to 1899–1900, both inclusive; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged Annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other payments connected with Capital Liabilities (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C. 9438] of Session 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th June; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 357.]

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CLERGY (WEST INDIES).

Copy presented, of Return of the Amount payable on 5th January, 1900, out of the Consolidated Fund for Ecclesiastical purposes in the West Indies [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACTS, 1859 AND 1876.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 1st August, 1900, declaring Hangchow, Soochow, Shashih, Samshui, and Wuchow, to be unhealthy places for the purposes of the Superannuation Acts, 1859 and 1876 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INCOME TAX.

Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 31st July, 1900, appointing Mr. Samuel Porter Foster, of Carlisle, to be a Special Commissioner of Income Tax [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FORESHORES.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 7th August, 1900, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1900, in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the Foreshores of the United Kingdom [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.

Account presented, of the money expended and borrowed and the Securities created under the Royal Niger Company Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Account presented, of Receipts and Expenditure of the Paymaster General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the Funds of Suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1900; and of Account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of Funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 358.]

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Ernest Gray*]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Inquiry into Charities (County of Carmarthen).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 10th February, 1898; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

2. Inquiry into Charities (County of Lancaster). — Further Return relative thereto [ordered 8th August, 1898; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

3. Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Durham). — Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

4. Inquiry into Charities (County of Montgomery.—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

5. Endowed Charities (County of Brecknock).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

6. Endowed Charities (County of Cardigan).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

7. Endowed Charities (County of Pembroke).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

8. Endowed Charities (County of Radnor).—Return relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*].

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898, AND REGISTRATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1898 (ORDERS AND RULES).

Copies ordered, "of Orders and Rules, or in certain cases Schedules enumerating Orders and Rules, made under or in consequence of the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 360, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

Copies presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 359.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898, AND REGISTRATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1898 (ORDERS AND RULES).

Copy ordered, "of Index to Orders and Rules [presented 8th August, 1899]."—*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 60.]

POST OFFICE (DISTRICT MESSENGERS COMPANY).

Return ordered, "of the amounts paid by the District Messengers and Theatre Ticket Company, Limited, to the Post Office, and of the payments made by the Post Office to the company, year by year from the commencement of their licence."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE SERVICE).

Return ordered, "of the receipts of the Post Office from the Telephone Service."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

Address for "Copy of the Report made to the India Office by Surgeon-Colonel Richardson in regard to the Conference on Venereal Disease held at Brussels in September, 1899." — (*Mr. Henry J. Wilson.*)

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE ON PEKING.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British relief force and the relief forces of any other Powers have yet started from Tientsin. May I also ask if the Government have any confirmation of the reports as to the battle near Tientsin?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): All the information the Government have received has been published.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Has the relief force yet started?

[No answer was given.]

CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE — STATEMENTS OF LI HUNG CHANG.

MR. BAINBRIDGE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the statement reported to have been made by Li Hung Chang to the effect that the lives of the Ambassadors in Peking would probably be sacrificed if the allied Powers advanced into that city, it is proposed to make any communication to the effect that he will be held personally responsible for their safety.

MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government have informed the Chinese Government that they will be held to be personally guilty if the members of the European Legations and other foreigners in Peking suffer injury. They do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by making a further communication of the character proposed.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Will the right hon. Gentleman say to whom the statement has been made? He said "the Chinese Government."

MR. PRITCHARD-MORGAN (Merthyr Tydvil): Have the Government received any confirmation of the statement made by Li Hung Chang on Saturday last that all foreigners had left Peking for Tientsin under escort on the 2nd inst. If that statement is found to be correct, will the allied forces return to Tientsin pending the arrival of the Europeans at that port?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; we have no confirmation of the statement.

BRITISH FLEET IN CHINESE WATERS.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether all the vessels representing the British Navy now in Chinese waters are of suitable draft for the protection of the approaches to the Yang-tsze River from Woosung; will he also state if any and what type of craft are engaged in patrolling the river, and whether they are adapted for contending with armed forts; and will he be good enough to state what arrangements are being made for a reserve of coal and other stores likely to be needed during the continuance of hostilities.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): All vessels of the Fleet in Chinese waters are of suitable draught for the protection of the approaches to the Yang-tsze River. The heavy-draught ships must wait for certain tides. The question under what circumstances men-of-war on rivers would engage armed forts cannot be answered in the abstract, nor is it wise to discuss it. I am not prepared to state the arrangements for our reserves of naval stores at Hong Kong, but they have naturally received the most earnest attention of the Board of Admiralty.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR — PUBLICATION OF DESPATCHES.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state when the Government will publish the despatches relating to the military operations in South Africa which have taken place since the actions in February last at Spion Kop and at Stormberg.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I hope that if things go well in South Africa the despatches will be published very soon.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman give a guarantee that they will be published as originally sent, and not edited for publication?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

THE "RHODES-HAWKSLEY" CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, on 6th June, 1896, the cablegrams and letters known as the Rhodes-Hawksley correspondence were, at the Colonial Secretary's request, delivered to him by Mr. Hawksley, who wrote then a covering letter; whether copies of this correspondence have in accordance with practice been retained at the Colonial Office; and, if not, can he say why they have not been so retained; has Mr. Hawksley's covering letter been retained at the Colonial Office; and was there a subsequent correspondence between Mr. Hawksley and the Colonial Secretary; and, whether the Colonial Secretary will now publish the correspondence between himself and Messrs. Rhodes and Hawksley.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I know of no correspondence which can properly be described as the Rhodes-Hawksley correspondence, and I have never had any correspondence with Mr. Rhodes in connection with the Jameson raid. I have repeatedly stated that copies of the cables which passed between England and South Africa were sent to me for confidential perusal and return, and were returned accordingly, no copies being kept. The majority of those cables were subsequently produced by the cable company to the Committee of Inquiry. The substance of the covering letter and my reply was stated to the Committee. Several letters passed subsequently between Mr. Hawksley and myself which I have offered to show to the Leader of the Opposition and to the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire if they desire it. I see no reasons for publishing these letters.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is there a "Hawksley-Chamberlain" correspondence or not?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

DISCOVERY OF DOCUMENTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA SAID TO IMPLICATE M.P.'S.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I wish to ask the Colonial Secretary a question of which I have not given him private notice, but which, I think, he will have no difficulty in answering—whether he has received any communication from the Members of Parliament mentioned as having written letters to the Transvaal, and, if so, whether he is prepared to make any statement with regard to the letters or the course he intends to take.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. Copies of the letters attributed to these Gentlemen were only sent to them last night, and I have not had time to receive an answer.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy): In the event of the alleged writers refusing permission to publish the letters, as the allegation is a serious one, will the right hon. Gentleman give the public an opportunity of judging by himself undertaking the responsibility of publishing them ?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not given the Gentlemen an opportunity of refusing permission. All I have asked is whether they have any observations or explanations to make.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman take an opportunity of publishing them at all ?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I told the House on the last occasion when I was asked a question on the subject that when I received replies from the gentlemen Her Majesty's Government would consider the matter.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will you publish them to-morrow morning for us to discuss them ?

ENGLISH VOLUNTEERS JOINING IN SOUTH AFRICA—PASSAGE HOME.

MR. PHILIP STANHOPE (Burnley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a number of young men who went out to South Africa at their own expense to join some of the colonial forces, such as Brabant's Horse, the Kaffrarian Rifles, or the Border Horse, are not in a position to defray the cost of the return journey to England; and whether, at the conclusion of the war, arrangements will be made to give these men, who have been serving their country, a free return passage home.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The suggestion will be considered.

TYPHOID FEVER—STATISTICS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can give the number of deaths from typhoid fever and the number of admissions for that disease at Bloemfontein for the weeks ending 29th June, 6th July, and 13th July; and whether he can state the total number of admissions for typhoid fever among the forces in South Africa up to the end of June, and the number of deaths from that disease.

*MR. WYNDHAM: These figures are not yet available. I will arrange that they shall be communicated to the hon. Member when they are.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS—REINFORCEMENTS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can state the strength of the reinforcement of trained men of the Royal Army Medical Corps which it has been recently decided to send out to South Africa.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The strength of the reinforcements is 300.

PROBABLE DURATION OF THE WAR.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is in a position to give the House any information as to the probable end of the war in the Transvaal.

*MR. WYNDHAM: My right hon. friend asks me to answer this question. I must, however, decline to prophesy.

MR. DALZIEL: Did not the hon. Gentleman say yesterday it would be over "in a few weeks" ?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I may have dropped that phrase. It would be my estimate, but then my estimate is not of any value.

WARLIKE STORES PURCHASED ABROAD.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can now state the total amount of the payments made, or to be made, for stores purchased abroad for the South African campaign up to 31st December, 1899.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: I must refer the honourable Member to the answer which I gave him on the 3rd of August.† If he wishes to have the information I will arrange for it to be communicated to him unofficially.—In answer to a further question Mr. Wyndham said he would give the totals now and the details at some later date, when they could be communicated without injury to the public interest.

CAPTURES OF BOER GUNS AND RIFLES.

Mr. BAINBRIDGE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state the quantity of arms of all descriptions which have been taken from the Boers since the commencement of hostilities; and whether the Commander-in-Chief has been asked to report at the conclusion of the war as to the number of Boer guns which may then be unaccounted for.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: We have no information of the total number of rifles captured. We have no conclusive information as to the number of guns captured. In regard to the second paragraph, the matter may be left to the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa.

HEROISM IN THE FIELD—PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.

General LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, as the despatches from the generals commanding in the field in South Africa, which the Government consider it is inexpedient to publish, should in accordance with precedent contain the names of officers and men brought to notice for heroism and gallantry in action, and, as delay in making such notice public materially weakens this as a reward for such service, it would be possible as a recognition to those still serving, and as a gratification to the relatives of those who have fallen, that extracts from these despatches could at once be published giving the names of those thus distinguished as well as the particulars of the services rendered.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: It would not be easy to separate the passages in which officers' names are mentioned from the context, but we have every hope that it may be found possible to publish the despatches before long.

FORAGE RATIONS.

General LAURIE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the daily forage ration allowed to cavalry and artillery officers in South Africa was ever fixed at 6 lb. oats and 4 lb. hay per horse; if so, how long this regulation was in force, and under whose advice it was so established; whether any protests as to the insufficiency of this allowance, which is less than half the forage ration issued in this country, were made by officers commanding cavalry regiments and batteries of artillery or by the generals under whose command they served; whether any change has been made in the quantity allowed per horse; and whether it is recognised that horses picketed in the open air, and more particularly in a changeable climate, require a larger quantity of food than horses kept in stables.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The daily ration fixed by general orders in South Africa is 12 lb. grain or 2 lb. hay in lieu of each pound of grain up to a maximum of 8 lb. Nothing is known of the ration alluded to in the question or of any protest against it. The only change made was an addition of 2 lb. of grain and hay at depôts near the coast when sufficient quantities are procurable. The supplies available at the base are ample.

General LAURIE: Has the hon. Gentleman's attention been called to a letter in *The Times*, dated Cape Town, 15th June, in which it is stated that while this short ration was being issued, forage was actually being burned?

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The ration depends not so much on the amount laid down in the regulations, but on the possibility of supplying it during these rapid marches.

ESTATE OF DECEASED SOLDIERS—INFORMATION FOR RELATIVES.

Mr. DALZIEL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what steps are taken to inform relatives of deceased soldiers in South Africa of the amount of pay that may be due at time of decease; and whether the desirability of increased publicity will be considered by the War Office.

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† See page 634 of this volume.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Communications of death are made at once to the next of kin in all cases in which the address is known, and they are told to apply to the War Office for anything which may be due; the amount of the estate as soon as known is distributed. Unclaimed estates of deceased soldiers are published in the Monthly Army Lists, and at the depôts, and in one or two weekly papers best adapted for the purpose.

SETTLEMENT AFTER WAR—VIEWS OF CANADA AND AUSTRALASIA.

MR. FABER (York): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, considering the part taken by Canada and Australia in the South African War, it is proposed to ascertain the views of the Governments of those countries in regard to the settlement and government of the Transvaal and Orange State when the war is over.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have already made myself acquainted with the views of the colonies of Canada and Australasia in regard to the main points of the future settlement, and Her Majesty's Government are in complete accordance with them as to the necessity for annexation, the establishment of a Government supported by military force, with the ultimate expectation of an extension to both colonies of representative self-government.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL WAR LOAN.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will explain the reason for the early closing this morning of the list of subscriptions for the issue of Exchequer bonds.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The list was closed as soon as it was ascertained that the bonds offered had been amply covered, because I was advised that this course would, on the whole, cause less disappointment than a very small allotment in proportion to the amount subscribed for. I may say that a part of the issue was already taken. Before settling what the issue should be, I had endeavoured to ascertain by the usual confidential inquiries whether the terms which I felt justified in offering would be likely to attract subscribers here. I received such very moderate encouragement that I accepted an offer made to me by the leading Anglo-American houses in London to place half the issue in the United States on the terms at which I had decided to offer it here. I did this not only on financial grounds. But financially it assured the success of the issue; and it had another great advantage. Last Thursday the reserve of the Bank of England stood at the lowest point at which it has stood at this time of the year for seven years; and I was advised by those best competent to judge that great relief might be afforded here by the movement of gold from the United States, if a large part of this loan were taken there. I regret any disappointment caused to those who were shut out by early closing; but I hope it may be to some extent mitigated by a consideration of the very important point to which I have just referred.

EXCISE DUTY—REBATES ON IRISH TOBACCO FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware of complaints being made that the usual rebate of excise duty was not allowed on consigments of tobacco sent from Dublin to the troops in South Africa; whether he can explain the reason; and will he see that the amount of the rebate claimed is refunded.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No complaints have been received as to the non-payment of drawback on British manufactured tobacco exported, except with regard to certain shipments by one firm, the particulars of which have been communicated to me by the hon. Member. Before any drawback can be paid the law requires that the shipment and exportation of the goods shall be duly certified by the export officer. In the case now under reply the tobacco was removed under bond by a firm of licensed tobacco manufacturers at Dublin to Southampton, for shipment for the troops in South Africa, but it was not produced to the officers of Customs at Southampton prior to shipment at that port, and the Board of Customs were consequently unable to sanction payment of drawback. They have informed the firm that on receipt of local evidence from Southampton as to the shipment of the case and of an official certificate of the landing of the tobacco in South Africa, they would further consider the question. No such evidence or certificate has yet been produced, but the Board are awaiting a further communication from the firm.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY — DELAYED DELIVERY OF SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING.

MR. H. S. FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War who is responsible for the clothing and feeding of the Imperial Yeomanry at the front, and if he can state why the men of Paget's Horse (Imperial Yeomanry) were early in July engaged on convoy duty in a state of semi-starvation, between Smid's Drift and Daniel's Kraal, their daily rations consisting of a small piece of bread and no biscuits, whilst they were taking up convoys of provisions to Sir Charles Warren; and who is responsible for the arrangements under which these men find it impossible to cash postal orders issued from the London post offices and sent out to them, and which it was stated in London could be cashed at any camp post office with the forces, the result being that the men were unable to purchase the abundant food supplies of the rebels and were unable to obtain proper supplies from their own forces.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. H. S. FOSTER: To ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he is now able to state who is responsible for the continuous non-delivery of warm clothing and other comforts, sent out in quantities weekly since the departure of the Imperial Yeomanry, and extending therefore over some months; and will any opportunity be afforded to persons in this country of giving evidence as to the quantity of such comforts sent out weekly by them, and not one of which has been delivered.

MR. H. S. FOSTER: To ask the Under Secretary of State for War who is responsible for the men of Paget's Horse (Imperial Yeomanry) being in a state of rags in the month of July; whether they have yet been supplied with proper clothing, having regard to the severity of the nights in South Africa; and whether, as the men of this and other Volunteer corps gave up their occupations and comforts in order to answer the invitation of the Government, searching inquiry will be made to ascertain how far the hardships to which they have been subjected could have been avoided or mitigated by those responsible.

*MR. WYNDHAM: If my hon. friend will permit me I will reply to his three questions together. There is no official information of the want of food or clothing mentioned; the responsibility for getting food and clothing to the front rests with the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa and his staff. In regard to the delivery of comforts I have already explained that an inquiry is being made in South Africa. Food and clothing naturally take precedence of comforts. The General Post Office made arrangements that postal orders issued in London should be cashed at any field post office in South Africa. If there is any evidence of failure in these arrangements I shall be happy to make inquiry. The general questions raised by the hon. Member—namely, whether our arrangements for transport and supply can be improved, and whether they have been turned to the best account during the present war—are of the highest importance and will form the subject of careful inquiry when the war is over.

CAVALRY CARBINES.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the disadvantage in which our cavalry in South Africa have been placed by the imperfect sighting and deficient range of their carbines as compared with the rifles used by the Boers; whether these carbines are still being manufactured; and whether it is under consideration to re-arm the cavalry with a weapon of full accuracy and range, even if it necessitates their carrying a long rifle in place of the carbine.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The question of substituting rifles for carbines cannot be taken up until full reports have been received from South Africa. Such reports have not yet been received, and, for the present, carbines are still being manufactured. The question of sighting has been reported on in this country, and new tests are now under consideration.

ARMY CONTRACTS—HUNGARIAN FLOUR FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central); I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether contracts for flour have been recently placed in Hungary for South Africa; and if he will adhere to his policy of giving a preference to home industries to the utmost possible extent in providing the Army with its supplies.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): No contracts for the purchase of flour have been recently placed in Hungary by the War Department. My hon. and gallant friend may rest assured that no stores will be purchased outside the United Kingdom that can be as readily and satisfactorily obtained at home.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL OFFICERS AT THE FRONT—COLONIAL ALLOWANCES.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the 400 Volunteer medical officers serving in South Africa are to be placed on the same financial footing as members of the Army Medical Corps, who receive colonial allowances of 1s. 6d. per day in the Cape Colony, and a larger gratuity of over 4s. a day both in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal.

I beg also to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, as the civil surgeons of the Army do not enjoy colonial allowance, they yet receive the same aggregate amount of pay as other medical men under Lord Roberts's command; and, if an inequality exists, whether he will endeavour to rectify it.

*MR. WYNDHAM: In reply to the two questions asked by the hon. Member about the pay of civil medical practitioners serving in South Africa, I may say that the position of these gentlemen differs in one important particular from that of officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The latter receive rates of pay which are calculated with reference to the general services which they have to perform at all times and in all parts of the world. The conditions of the present war are, however, unusual as regards the specially high cost of living in South Africa, and it was therefore thought reasonable that special colonial allowances should be granted to them to enable them to meet this extra expense. The case of the civil surgeons is quite different. They made a special contract for service in South Africa during the present war, and there is therefore nothing unforeseen in the conditions of their service which we feel called upon to meet by an alteration in their favour in the terms of the contract. As a matter of fact they receive higher emoluments than many of the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps. My attention has been called to the fact that civil veterinary surgeons are receiving colonial allowances. That is so, the reason being that they are paid at the rate of Army veterinary surgeons, and not at a special rate calculated with a view to the present war.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the case of Jane Edith Owen, wife of 2481, Private J. T. Owen, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, now on active service with Her Majesty's forces in South Africa; and whether he is aware that before enlisting Private Owen was promised that his wife should receive, during his absence, a sum of 1s. 1d. per day separation allowance and 2d. a day for his child; that this promise was confirmed by a letter to Mrs. Owen, dated 24th March, 1900, from Captain King, of the Scots Guards; and that the only sum now received by Mrs. Owen and her child is a sum of 6d. per day allotted to her by her husband before leaving for the war.

*MR. WYNDHAM: An inquiry is being made into this case.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY—PENNY POSTAGE.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Hertfordshire, Hertford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Post Office has yet come to any decision with regard to the establishment of penny postage to the Orange River Colony, especially in view of the surcharges which have been frequently made on poor recipients of letters; and whether it would be possible to establish penny postage with the Transvaal so soon as its annexation is proclaimed.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): No decision has yet been come to. Although the 2½d. rate of postage must, for the present, remain applicable to the letters of the general public, those sent from or to the British forces serving in South Africa are specially exempted from surcharges.

MILITIA BATTALIONS AT BULFORD CAMP.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Militia battalions now encamped at Bulford have been in the last six months repeatedly moved, or have received orders to move, which have been at the last moment countermanded, thus entailing much trouble and expense to individuals; whether it is intended to move these battalions repeatedly in the next few months, and whether such frequent changes were and are unavoidable on public grounds; and if the Secretary of State will consider whether they are calculated to discourage recruiting and re-engagements.

*MR. WYNDHAM: My information does not confirm the statement that there have been repeated moves, or that orders have been given and countermanded at the last moment; but a certain number of moves have been necessary in order that the ground might be cleared for building huts. I have explained to the House on former occasions that the deficiencies in our barrack accommodation, which we are spending a great deal of money to remedy, render such shiftings unavoidable.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Can the hon. Gentleman say how long the Militia are to be kept up?

*MR. WYNDHAM: There are several questions down as to that. I cannot give the date of their disembodiment.

MILITIA EMBODIMENT—DURATION.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to disband those regiments of Militia which were embodied in November last before those that have only been out since May; and can he state how long the embodiment is likely to continue, inasmuch as employers of labour are anxious to know whether they are likely to get their old hands back again for the winter, or whether they will have to fill up permanently the places of the men who are now embodied.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I have already explained that it is impossible at the present time to state when disembodiment will take place, but the battalions first embodied will have a strong claim to be the first released.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state how long it is intended to keep the Militia Artillery regiments, which were embodied at the beginning of May, under canvas; how long the authorities mean to keep them on active service; and, if they are to be retained on active service after 30th September, what the War Office means to do with them.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I can add nothing to the reply to a similar question put by the hon. Member for the Montgomery District on the 3rd instant.† The Militia will not be kept in tents after the camping reason is over. It is not possible at the present moment to say when the Militia will be disembodied.

OFFICERS' MESSES AND QUARTERS—FURNISHING SCHEME.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if any progress has been made with the furnishing of officers' mess and married men's quarters in the United Kingdom, so as to decrease the cost of home transport and the difficulty of moving officers and regiments from one station to another.

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† See page 637 of this volume.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The question of furnishing officers' messes and quarters is one factor in the general problem of reducing officers' expenses, which, as I have explained, must be treated as a whole. Some progress has already been made in dealing with it, and the hon. Member may be assured that the matter will receive attention during the autumn.

CHELSEA BARRACKS — OFFICERS' DRESSING ROOMS.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the dressing room and sanitary arrangements provided for officers of the Militia and Volunteers at the school of instruction at Chelsea Barracks have been improved; and, if not, can he say when it is proposed to carry out these improvements.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: No complaint has been received as to the accommodation at Chelsea Barracks for the officers referred to. As I pointed out in reply to my hon. and gallant friend on the 10th July last year, any representation on the subject should be made through the General Officer Commanding Home District; and pending the receipt of such representations action cannot be taken.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: Is not the hon. Gentleman aware that I had the honour of making a complaint?

*Mr. WYNDHAM: It should have been made to the General Officer Commanding the Home District. This House is the court of appeal—it cannot be made a court of first instance to deal with minor details.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I made written complaint to the General Officer Commanding the Home District, and he promised to do something in the matter.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: My information is that no complaint has been received.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: As a matter of fact, I made one.

RESERVISTS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTES.

Mr. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in the event of a General Election, railway warrants will be issued to men doing duty with the colours in the United Kingdom, in order that they may record their votes.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: In the event of a General Election the question will be considered.

SALISBURY PLAIN — LIGHTNING FATALITY TO A VOLUNTEER—COMPENSATION.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what compensation will be paid to the representatives of a member of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, the South Wales Borderers, recently encamped on Salisbury Plain, who was killed by lightning on 28th July; and whether he will consider the propriety of extending the present regulations applicable in this case, and also in all similar cases where death results in performance of their military duties, and when subject to military law.

*Mr. WYNDHAM: The regulations do not admit of the grant of compensation in such cases even to Regular troops; but, as I have informed the House, this subject is now under consideration.

VOLUNTEER CAMPS ON SALISBURY PLAIN — TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether better transport arrangements in connection with camps on Salisbury Plain will be effected by another year, as inconvenience and loss have resulted to Volunteer regiments this summer.

I beg further to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the inadequacy of the provision for Volunteers on Salisbury Plain for washing purposes; and if steps will be taken to remedy this grievance in future.

I beg also to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can make any general announcement with regard to the intentions of the Government as regards their future policy towards Volunteers, *e.g.*, respecting regimental camp allowances, brigade camp allowances, pay and allowances to officers and men, capitation and other grants, and minimum and maximum duration, and whether optional or obligatory of camps in future.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Any changes in the existing regulations and provisions for Volunteers and their camps must necessarily be based on the experience derived from the camps now being held. The information in our possession does not lead to the conclusion that the arrangements made this year have, as the hon. Member supposes, been inadequate; and even if it were possible to frame a scheme before the camp trainings are complete, and to report on them to hand, the proper time for presenting it would be when asking Parliamentary sanction for the Estimates of the year. I need hardly remind my hon. and gallant friend that the arrangements for the camps this year are for this year only.

DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL—MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR J. FERGUSSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the medical officer of the Duke of York's School has been re-appointed at the expiration of his term of appointment, and whether he has been recommended for such extension by the Director General of the Army Medical Department and the Commandant of the Duke of York's School.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The medical officer of the Duke of York's School was re-appointed in May, 1899. The recommendation for such extension was made by the Commander-in-Chief after a special inquiry into this officer's efficiency.—In answer to a further question the hon. Gentleman said he would not be justified in going into the facts upon what the Commander-in-Chief made his recommendation, but he did appoint a special inquiry to ascertain whether the medical officer was efficient or not, and the conclusion arrived at by those charged with the duty was that he was perfectly efficient.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Was it referred to the Board of Patronage of which we have heard so much?

[No answer was given.]

PENSIONS—CASE OF JOSEPH BLACK.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Joseph Black enlisted at Dumfries in 1855, and as sergeant volunteered at Aldershot when serving there in 1858 to the 11th Hussars, and served continuously in that regiment till 1871, and that he served again in the 5th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers from 1873 till 1894, being colour sergeant for the last fifteen years; whether he is aware that Black's pension on discharge is 8½d. per diem by reason of the last period only of his service being computed; whether Black has represented to the War Office that he engaged for the last period on the assurance given him by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, the late Commander-in-Chief, through his Colonel, Sir G. C. Walker, K.C.B., that the whole of his service should be reckoned for pension on discharge, and if inquiries have been made as to the accuracy of that representation; and whether 8½d. a day is, according to War Office Regulations, the proper recompense for so long a service.

*MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS: This case has been fully explained to the House on a previous occasion. The man received the pension to which he was entitled under regulations which apply to his service, and no one had any power to make any such promise as that referred to.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the promise was distinctly made by the Duke of Cambridge?

*MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS: I am not aware of that.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Then you ought to be.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SALISBURY PLAIN—MILITARY USE OF CULTIVATED LAND.

LIEUT.-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to make use of the cultivated ground on Salisbury Plain for military purposes, inasmuch as during the last month there has been no room for brigade drills at Bulford Camp, although certain battalions lost two whole days, out of twelve working days, in travelling to and from Salisbury Plain, and that the musketry shooting could have been done nearer home and at less cost to the public.

*MR. WYNDHAM: A scheme has been formed, and is being carried out, by which all cultivated land on Salisbury Plain belonging to the Government, outside certain areas, will revert to grass. But to carry out such a scheme in accordance with the terms of the leases and without injury to tenants naturally takes a considerable time.

VOLUNTEER, MILITIA, AND YEOMANRY STATISTICS.

LIEUT.-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he will issue a Return, after the close of the Volunteer year, giving the following information, namely, the acreage, rateable value, and population of each county in England, Scotland, and Wales, respectively, and the number of efficient members of the Yeomanry and Volunteers, respectively, on the rolls at the end of the last Volunteer year, and also on the rolls at the end of the current Volunteer year; also of the Militia, those resident in each county, those non-resident; also (for Yeomanry and Volunteers) columns giving particulars of regiments represented in South Africa, and distinguishing those which have earned the special grant, together with the percentage of attendance of their enrolled strength; also stating the financial position of each corps, and enumerating their assets, such as ranges, drill halls, machine guns, transport, and other accessories in different columns.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Information on some of these subjects is being collected, and I hope to be able to issue a Return which will contain a part at least of what the hon. and gallant Member asks for.

RESERVE REGIMENTS—PROMOTIONS.

COLONEL SANDYS (Lancashire, Bootle): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, in some of the reserve battalions, majors in the Army have been put on duty as subalterns; that in the reserve battalions seniority is not regarded, and the latest joined officers are put over the heads of officers senior to them in the Army; and that in the reserve battalions officers and men from different regiments are mixed up indiscriminately in the same reserve battalion, to the detriment of regimental *esprit*; and if there is any reason why there should not be a reserve battalion for each regiment of the Line, formed exclusively from officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have served together in that regiment before.

*MR. WYNDHAM: As there were hardly any officers of the rank of subaltern in the reserve, majors have been obliged to do duty as subalterns. Seniority in the reserve battalions within each rank depends on the date of joining such battalion for duty. Officers and men are not mixed up indiscriminately; the various territorial corps have been grouped to form battalions, as the unequal numbers joining from the several corps have rendered the formation of a reserve battalion for each regiment impossible.

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL BOILERS.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, W.R., Shipley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can now conveniently inform the House as to the constitution of the Committee to inquire into the boilers of Her Majesty's ships, and whether he can also inform the House of the terms of reference to the Committee.

MR. GOSCHEN: I am composing the Committee as follows. It will consist of seven members:—The President, Vice-Admiral Sir Compton Domvile, who has had under his command fleets of ships with both cylindrical and water-tube boilers, and will have them again; Mr. List, the superintending engineer of the Castle Company; Mr. Bain, the superintending engineer of the Cunard Line;

Mr. Milton, chief engineer surveyor of Lloyd's Registry of Shipping (this gentleman sat on the former Admiralty Committee on Boilers in 1892); Professor Kennedy, formerly Professor of Engineering at University College, now an engineer in large practice, with special experience in the trials of engines and boilers; sixthly, an engineer of the Royal Navy holding the rank of inspector of machinery. As regards the seventh member of the Committee, I am still engaged in making the selection. The instructions to the Committee will be to the following effect, though I do not pledge myself to the precise wording of the reference:—To ascertain practically and experimentally the relative advantages and disadvantages of the Belleville boiler for naval purposes as compared with the cylindrical boiler; to investigate the causes of the defects which have occurred in these boilers and in the machinery of ships fitted with them, and to report how far they are preventable either by modifications of details or by difference of treatment, or how far they are inherent in the system. Also to report generally on the suitability of the propelling and auxiliary machinery fitted in recent war vessels, and to offer any suggestions for improvement, stating at the same time the effect as regards weight and space of any alterations proposed. To report on the advantages and disadvantages of the Niclausse and Babcock and Wilcox boilers compared with the Belleville as far as the means at the disposal of the Committee permit, and also to report whether any other description of boiler has sufficient advantages over the Belleville or the other two types mentioned, as a boiler for large cruisers and battleships, to make it advisable to fit it in any of Her Majesty's ships for trial. For the purpose of making direct experiments between ships fitted with Belleville and cylindrical boilers respectively, the "Hyacinth," fitted with Belleville boilers, will be placed at the disposal of the Committee. A cruiser of similar type fitted with cylindrical boilers will also be placed at the disposal of the Committee when required for the purpose of comparison. For the investigation of defects, copies of the reports of all the defects of machinery and boilers which have occurred during the naval manœuvres will be placed before the Committee, and they will be able to inspect the ships specially commissioned for the manœuvres. On the arrival of the "Europa" from Australia it is proposed that the investigation into the causes of her high coal expenditure should be conducted under the directions of the Committee, and that she should afterwards be put through such trials as they may think necessary. Information on any special points connected with the behaviour of the boilers or machinery of water-tube boiler ships on ordinary peace service which the Committee may desire to have can be obtained from any of Her Majesty's ships in commission, and opportunities can be taken when the Channel Squadron is in any of the home ports to examine the boilers and machinery of the "Diadem," "Arrogant," and "Furious," which have Belleville boilers, and the "Pactolus," which is fitted with the Blechynden boilers. The "Pelorus," fitted with Normand boilers, which has recently returned from three years continuous service in the Channel Squadron and at the Cape of Good Hope, and the "Powerful" will also be available for examination during their refits. The "Sharpshooter," fitted with Belleville boilers without economisers, the "Seagull," fitted with Niclausse, and the "Sheldrake" with Babcock and Wilcox boilers, will be employed in training stokers, and will be available for examination, and, if necessary, for any comparative experiments between these boilers that the Committee may wish to make. It is particularly desired that any conclusions the Committee may arrive at should be supported by experimental proof as far as possible, and that they should propose any further experiments they think necessary for this purpose.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY: May I ask whether the words in the earlier part of the reference—namely, "causes of failure in the boilers"—includes examination as to the sufficiency of the engineers and stokers who attend them. Should not that naturally be in the reference to the Committee? Is it not the intention of the Admiralty to inquire into the question of the *personnel*?

Mr. GOSCHEN: No, Sir. It would not be naturally in the reference to the Committee. Of course, if there are any defects discovered which are due to the causes the hon. Member suggests, the Committee will be at perfect liberty to state them.

MR. C. H. WILSON (Hull, W.): Have any of the engineers of the companies named had any experience with water-tube boilers?

MR. GOSCHEN: No, Sir; neither in the Castle Line nor in the Cunard Line. On the other hand, the naval engineer and inspector of machinery will have had experience of the water-tube boiler.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will the professor of engineering have had experience?

MR. GOSCHEN: The professor of engineering is, I believe, looked up to as a great authority on all these questions, and has examined them scientifically. I believe he has already been engaged in trials with regard to waste of water and matters of that kind which will make his assistance particularly valuable.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the Report of the Committee deal with the manœuvres of last year as well as this?

MR. GOSCHEN: No, Sir. I do not think their labours ought to be extended beyond the limits I have laid down. Otherwise it might be ages before they report. My hon. friend will see that the work I have cut out for them is very considerable.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is it intended to invite the hon. Member for Gateshead to serve on this Committee?

MR. GOSCHEN: No, Sir. I have not proposed to place any Member of Parliament on the Committee. If the hon. Member for Gateshead were placed on the Committee, other Members of Parliament would be equally entitled to a place. I look upon this as a practical scientific investigation, to be kept entirely apart from anything which has passed in this House. This will leave hon. Members of this House real liberty in discussing the Report of the Committee.

SUBMARINE BOATS.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can see his way to state what investigations are being made in this country into the question of submarine boats; and whether it is the intention of the Admiralty to proceed with the building of any experimental submarine ship as is now being done in the case of at least two foreign navies.

MR. GOSCHEN: I must refer the hon. Gentleman to my previous statements in the House in answer to the hon. Gentlemen the Member for West Newington and the Member for Bolton on the 6th April and 3rd May last.†

STEAM COAL FOR THE NAVY.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Amiralty if he will state the quantity of naval steam coal at present stored at ports in the United Kingdom and in British coaling stations abroad; and whether such coal is protected by covering sheds or otherwise from the disintegrating and wasting effects of atmospheric action.

MR. GOSCHEN: It is not in the interests of the public service to give the information asked for in the first paragraph of the question. Coal at foreign stations is generally protected by covering sheds, but not in the home ports where the turn-over is rapid.

INDIA—FAMINE STATISTICS.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he has any further information about the rainfall in the districts affected by the famine in India, and whether the prospects of the ensuing crops are improved; and if he has received from Lord Curzon any reports regarding his inspection last week of the affected provinces in Western India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Government of India telegraph to-day as follows—

"Famine. Very decided improvement in last ten days through sudden opportune renewed advance of the monsoon. The rain which has fallen is ample for present agricultural requirements in Gujarat, also in the greater part of Rajputana and Central India. Sowings being actively prosecuted so far as scarcity of plough bullocks permits. If present favourable conditions continue considerable autumn crops will be secured and tension will relax."

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxi., p. 1402; Vol. lxxxii., p. 583.

On the 6th August the Governor of Bombay reported that—

> "Rainfall continues in affected area. Agricultural operations are progressing satisfactorily in Gujarat, Panch Mahals, and Kathiawar. Elsewhere agricultural prospects are encouraging. Numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief increased."

I have not yet received from the Viceroy any special reports regarding what he has witnessed during the inspections he is now making of the famine districts.

IRRIGATION AND WATER STORAGE WORKS.

MR. SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any proposals have been made or projects prepared for conservation by dams or reservoirs of the waters of the Nerbudda and Tapti rivers, the monsoon floods of which are now rushing to the sea through the Central Provinces and Gujerat, where the people and cattle have been perishing for want of water; and if no such plans have as yet been proposed, will the Indian Government consider whether it may even yet be practicable to store and utilise some portion of the volume of water which will otherwise be largely wasted.

LORD G. HAMILTON: If the hon. Gentleman wishes it, I will consult the Indian Government upon this matter; but so far as I know, neither of these rivers could be associated with large and effective irrigation works.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY—REPAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT ADVANCES.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in the transactions whereby the property and interests of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company were taken over and acquired by the Government of India, account was taken of the debt due to the State in respect of sums advanced from India's general revenues to make up the dividends guaranteed to the company or for other purposes; and seeing that the aggregate total of these advances to the three remaining guaranteed companies (including the Great Indian Peninsula) still amounts to over Rx.35,000,000, can he state what means, if any, there are by which the Indian revenues may recover the amount of those advances.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Under contract of 30th November, 1870, between the Secretary of State for India in Council and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, the company gave up its right to more than half the surplus profits in the event of advances of interest being entirely repaid, and in return the Government abandoned all claim to repayment of such advances in any other manner. Similar arrangements were made with the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India and Madras Railway Companies.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN INDIA—PENSIONS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state when and whence the proposals originated to the effect that the Law and Finance Members of the Supreme Executive Council in India are each to have pensions of £750 after their five years of office terminate, and whether the present incumbents of those posts are to receive these new pensions; and by what authority has this permanent addition to Indian expenditure been imposed, and will Parliament have an opportunity to consider the proposal for these new pensions.

LORD G. HAMILTON: No resolution to the effect suggested has been passed, though the question of adding to the pecuniary attractions of these two appointments for persons not in the permanent employ of the Government has been under consideration. Should it be deemed advisable to take the action indicated, the Secretary of State in Council will be guided by the requirements of the statutes defining his powers in respect of Indian expenditure.

COOPER'S HILL ENGINEERS.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to a Despatch No. 15, P. W., dated 28–1–90, from the Government of India, dealing with matters to be brought before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and specially affecting the claims of the Cooper's Hill Engineers; and whether the evidence therein contained was laid before that Committee; and, if not, why it was withheld.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The question as to the selection of Papers to be laid before the Select Committee in 1890 was, I believe, very carefully considered by my predecessor in office, and all Papers bearing on the subject under discussion which it was thought could be published without prejudice to the interest of the public service were produced. I am not prepared, at this distance of time, to reopen the question.

MR. KIMBER: Was this particular despatch laid before the Committee?

LORD G. HAMILTON was understood to answer in the affirmative.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any alterations have been made recently in the regulations for the admission of students to the Royal Engineering College, Cooper's Hill; and, if so, will he state the particulars regarding the same, and also whether they tend to impose any restrictions on the entrance of students from India to the college, and on their passing through it to the several departments of public service for which they have been hitherto eligible.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The college was established to supply from this country officers for the Public Works Departments in India. Colleges were also set up in India to supply native officers for the same departments, and at these colleges no Europeans were allowed to be trained. Recently there was a rush of Indian students to the Cooper's Hill College. Finding that in the past few years one native student had on the average got into the Public Works Department through Cooper's Hill, I fixed for the future two as the number to be annually competed for by them. Thus the main object is maintained for which the college was established—namely, the annual provision of European officers for these departments, whilst at the same time no restriction is imposed upon the limit of Indian students.

SEA FISHERIES BILL COMMITTEE.

SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): On behalf of the hon. Member for Suffolk, Lowestoft Division, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade why the evidence taken by the Select Committee on the Sea Fisheries Bill has not been circulated with the Report, seeing that the evidence was completed nearly a month ago, and was printed and circulated amongst the members of the Committee from day to day.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I have no doubt that the evidence will be circulated in due course. I have no control over the printing, of course, but I am told there has been no unusual delay. After the evidence is completed it has to be indexed.

SEA FISHERIES—INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the attention of the Government has been directed to the Report of the Select Committee on the Sea Fisheries Bill, whose first recommendation is that no effort should be spared to arrange for international treatment of the subject of sea fisheries, and especially for the regulation of the North Sea area; and whether the Government will initiate negotiations for the assembling of a conference of the North Sea Powers for this purpose.

MR. RITCHIE: This matter is receiving consideration, but further knowledge is necessary before negotiations can be opened for a conference.

SEA FISHERIES—FUTURE LEGISLATION.

MR. C. H. WILSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware of the falling off in the North Sea fisheries, and seeing that in their special Report the Select Committee to whom the Sea Fisheries Bill was referred stated that the subject of the diminution of the fish supply was a pressing one, and that the situation was becoming worse, and that no effort ought to be spared to arrange for international treatment of the subject generally, and especially for regulation of the North Sea area; and to provide for the adequate equipment of the Government Departments in charge of the subject, so that they might effectively pursue scientific investigation, and ascertain what has been done either in the way of scientific research or in the matter of practical legislation by other inquirers and by other countries, with the view of determining whether any, and if so what, legislation may be desirable to effect the objects of the Bill, whether he will press upon the Government legislative action, as the diminution in the supply of this article of food is of national importance.—In putting this question the hon. Member said: I am aware the question has to some extent been answered in the reply to the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire; but I wish particularly to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware of the falling off in the North Sea fisheries; if he knows that many of the fishing vessels are now being laid up in the ports of Hull and Grimsby, thereby causing great distress, which may possibly increase in the near future; and if he will consider the importance of dealing with this matter by legislation, which has been too long deferred.

Mr. RITCHIE: I am not aware whether the hon. Gentleman's latter allegation is correct, but I do know there has been some falling off in the fishing industry in the North Sea.

Mr. C. H. WILSON: What do the Government propose to do?

Mr. RITCHIE: It is much too early for the Government to state what it proposes to do. There has not been time to consider the evidence and the Report of the Committee.

Mr. C. H. WILSON: How many years has this question been before the Government?

PARIS EXHIBITION—SUGGESTED EXPERT COMMISSION IN BRITISH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

Mr. BAINBRIDGE: Is the Government aware that the German Government have decided to appoint a Special Commission of nine experts, with a view to bringing before the manufacturers of that country improvements in machinery displayed at the Paris Exhibition, and will he consider the desirability of advising the British Government to take a similar course?

Mr. RITCHIE: I have no knowledge of the facts stated in the question.

DOG QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the quarantine regulations issued by the Board of Agriculture compel a dog owner to keep his dog muzzled day and night indoor and outdoor for six months; whether he is aware that, in carrying out these regulations, the police have entered houses at all hours of the day and night; and have instructions been given to the police, and, if so, will he state what the instructions are.

Mr. RITCHIE (for Mr. Long): My right hon. friend asks me to say that the regulations made by the Board of Agriculture ordinarily require that an imported dog shall be kept muzzled when in any public place or in contact with other dogs, but not at any other time. Where, however, a dog has been illegally landed or removed from the prescribed place of detention the dog is required to be muzzled at all times, except whilst being fed, until satisfactory arrangements for its detention have been made. It is the duty of the police to execute and enforce the Orders of the Board of Agriculture, but it rests with the various police authorities to take the necessary steps for this purpose, and the Board have issued no instructions on the subject. The answer to the hon. Member's second question is in the negative.

WELSHPOOL CATTLE MARKETS.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if the restrictions with regard to swine and markets in the district of Weshpool have been withdrawn; if not, whether he can give any information as to the likelihood of an early relaxation of the present restrictions.

Mr. Ritchie (for **Mr. Long**): My right hon. friend desires me to say that the restrictions referred to have not yet been withdrawn. The improved position of this district as regards swine fever leads him to hope that he may be before long in a position to relax them; although it is impossible to intimate beforehand the particular date when the restrictions can be withdrawn.

KENT COAL FIELDS.

Mr. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has any information that a seam of steam navigation coal has been found at Dover which on analysis has been pronounced equal to the best Welsh steam coal; if any report thereon has been or will be made by the Government Inspector of Mines; and if it would be possible to secure this coal for the service of the British Fleet.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE to the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. **Jesse Collings**, Birmingham, Bordesley): I have been asked by my right hon. friend to answer this question. It is a matter of common knowledge that a company has been seeking coal in the neighbourhood of Dover, and that seams have been found. The Government have no information as to the quality of the coal.

THE BROWN INSTITUTION—INOCULATIONS WITH RABIES.

Mr. MOSS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to a statement by the superintendent of the Brown Institution, that the inoculations with rabies performed in that institution were of no use except for the purpose of compiling statistics; and whether, seeing that these inoculations with rabies inflict suffering on a number of animals, he will take the necessary steps to prevent their continuance in that institution in future.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: The superintendent of the Brown Institution states that the question does not accurately represent any opinions expressed by him. He considers that the inoculations referred to afford the only means of determining the existence of rabies in a suspected animal.

MAIDSTONE PRISON WARDERS.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the warders, some retired and some still serving in Maidstone prison, who were in the prison service when the control of the prisons was taken over by the Home Office from the county authorities, were guaranteed by agreement that they would, when retiring, receive a pension equal to two-thirds of their salaries; whether this arrangement was kept in the cases of all old service officers who retired up to two years ago, when Mr. Bishop was given a pension of £61 10s. for twenty-five years service; was the arrangement departed from one year ago when Mr. Searle, who had twenty-six years service, and received only £43 pension; whether he is aware that Mr. Broderick, who has served over twenty-four years in the prison service and twenty-one years in the Army, is about retiring, and is only to be allowed £36 10s. 4d.; can he say why these officers should not be paid according to the agreement and on the scale given to the other officers; and will he see that Mr. Searle and Mr. Broderick and all remaining old officers in Maidstone are pensioned at the higher rate.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: There was no agreement such as is suggested in the question. There are considerable legal difficulties affecting these and similar cases, and the whole question is now under the consideration of the Departments concerned.

HAPTON VALLEY COLLIERY.

Mr. PHILIP STANHOPE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received and considered a Report from the district inspector of mines with regard to the testing of tubs at the Hapton Colliery on 21st June.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: The hon. Member intends, as I understand, to refer to Hapton Valley Colliery. The inspector mentions in one of his Reports, which has been before the Secretary of State, that the tubs in that colliery were tested on the 21st June. The matter forms part of the larger question into which the Secretary of State has promised to institute an inquiry.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE WORKHOUSES.

LIEUT.-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the inquiries into the possibility of the reduction of the number of workhouses in the county of Montgomery have been completed; if not, when does he hope to complete the same.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Inquiries have been made upon this subject, but no representations by any of the local authorities, or by the ratepayers interested, have been received by the Local Government Board on the matter.

VACCINATION EXPENSES.

LIEUT.-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what have been the total expenses of the guardians of the unions of Machynlleth, Caersws, Forden, and Llanfyllin, respectively, in the county of Montgomery, in respect of public vaccination in each of the three years ending 31st December, 1897, 31st December, 1898, and 31st December, 1899; what have been the amounts of the fees to public vaccinators and vaccination officers; and what have been the expenses of prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts in each of the three years named in the said unions.

MR. CHAPLIN: I replied to three precisely similar questions relating to other unions only yesterday, and I have nothing to add to the answers I gave then. I will furnish my hon. friend with a copy of that reply, if he desires it.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number of certificates of successful primary vaccination received by the vaccination officers during the year 1899, as compared with 1898, and the number of such certificates received for the first six months of this year as compared with the similar period of the years 1898 and 1899.

MR. CHAPLIN: The number of certificates of successful primary vaccination received by vaccination officers during 1899 was 669,349, as compared with 500,314 during 1898, being an increase of 169,035, or 33.8 per cent. I have not received Returns as to the number of such certificates during the first six months of the present year.

DISSENTING MINISTERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

MR. BAINBRIDGE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether Her Majesty's Government will consider favourably the question of introducing legislation to enable a Dissenting minister to be placed upon the register on taking up his residence in any locality, thus giving him the privilege already possessed by the clergy of the Established Church.

MR. CHAPLIN: I understand the question of the hon. Member to relate to Parliamentary registration; but this is not a matter coming within the province of the Local Government Board.

CATERHAM AND LEAVESDEN ASYLUMS.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that the managers of the Metropolitan Asylums Board have recently reduced the normal accommodation for patients at Caterham and Leavesden Asylums; that in consequence of this reduction, and owing to the Metropolitan Asylums Board having otherwise failed to make adequate provision for the reception of imbeciles, many such cases in Bethnal Green have been detained in the workhouse there; and that such cases include a number of boys and girls to whose interests detention in the workhouse is injurious; and whether, under these circumstances, he proposes to take any steps to remedy this state of things.

MR. CHAPLIN: Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to answer this question. The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. I am informed that there are six children in the Bethnal Green workhouse who should be removed to an imbecile asylum if there were vacancies for them. The asylum managers are alive to the necessity of further provision being made for imbeciles, and pending the acquisition of the Sutton schools they are making temporary provision for imbecile children.

CIVIL SERVICE—TEMPORARY COPYISTS.

MR. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in addition to the old class of writers, the ordinary temporary copyists who were registered and employed by the Civil Service Commissioners between September, 1870, and August, 1871, although they had not belonged to the old class of writers mentioned by the Secretary on the 5th of April last, are allowed on appointment to permanent positions to reckon all their temporary service towards pensions under the Treasury Minute of the 1st June, 1882.

MR. HANBURY: There were no "copyists" employed before the Order in Council of 19th August, 1871. There were certain writers registered for general service between 4th June, 1870, and 19th August, 1871, and such of them who fulfilled the conditions of Treasury Minute of June, 1882, would count all their writer service for pension; otherwise they would only count half of it.

PILLAR AND WALL LETTER BOXES IN THE CITY.

MR. COHEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, when it is expected that the undivided pillar and wall boxes in the E.C. District will be divided so as to avoid the necessity for letters from these boxes being carried first to St. Martin's-le-Grand and then to Mount Pleasant, and the delay resulting from such transmission.

MR. HANBURY: Divided street letter boxes are being provided in the Eastern Central District as rapidly as the contractors, who have had the order for a considerable time, can supply them. It is hoped that the supply will be completed by the middle of October. Meanwhile collections from the undivided boxes are being dealt with specially in order to prevent delay as far as possible.

BANK HOLIDAY DUTY IN THE POST OFFICE.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the members of the old first class of countermen and telegraphists, who are entitled under the Tweedmouth scheme to payment for work performed on bank holidays, are in future to be compelled to accept a corresponding number of hours off during the winter months; and whether such work should not be paid for in accordance with the decision of the Departmental Committee, as is at present the custom.

MR. HANBURY: The arrangement referred to by the hon. Member forms part of a scheme by which the main part of the annual holiday of the whole staff would be taken between 1st March and 31st October, instead of being spread over the whole year as now; but it is made on condition that this generally beneficial scheme shall only take effect with the practically unanimous consent of the staff affected.

GAERWEN TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Anglesey Standing Joint Committee and the Anglesey County Council have called his attention to the lack of telegraph facilities in Gaerwen, Anglesey; and whether, seeing that the London and North Western Railway station, which is a considerable distance from the village of Gaerwen, is the only place within the district from which telegrams can be sent, and taking into account the interests of the public and the difficulty of communicating with the police in the Gaerwen district, he will take steps to place telegraph facilities within reach of the inhabitants of Gaerwen without requiring any financial security.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster General is unable to trace any application from the local authorities referred to, but his attention was drawn by the hon. Member himself a month or two ago to the need of a telegraph office at Gaerwen, and on the 19th ult. the terms on which such an office could be opened were stated. The estimated telegraph business is too small to justify the opening of the office without guarantee. The railway station, where telegrams are received for despatch, is slightly under a mile from the village. There is no delivery from the station.

TRAMORE PIER.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is yet in a position to say if the Lords of the Treasury will make the necessary grant for the erection of a pier at Tramore for the landing of fish; and, if so, what amount the Treasury will grant, and when the work will commence.

Mr. HANBURY: I have not yet received a Report upon the application in question.

KIRKCALDY AND SINCLAIRTOWN STATIONS—SHUNTING ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. DALZIEL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the danger to the travelling public resulting from the absence of proper shunting accommodation at Kirkcaldy and Sinclairtown stations, and the accidents which have already resulted therefrom, he will take immediate steps to compel the North British Railway Company to provide increased accommodation.

Mr. RITCHIE: The Board of Trade have no powers of compulsion, but they have communicated with the company several times on this subject. As recently as 20th July they addressed a letter to the general manager and received a reply intimating that the matter was still under consideration. The company shall be pressed to arrive at some conclusion.

BUTE PROCURATOR FISCAL.

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the procurator fiscal for the county of Bute received his appointment on the condition that he would devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and that he would not directly or indirectly engage in private practice as a law agent; whether he is aware that the procurator fiscal has appointed two deputes, who, besides being depute procurator fiscal, carry on the business of law agents within the procurator fiscal's office, and that one of these deputes, who is not a qualified law agent, appeared for the procurator fiscal in the public interest at the Bute County Licensing Court, whilst the other depute appeared on behalf of an applicant for a licence in Arran, the procurator fiscal himself being absent for weeks from the county as adjutant of a Volunteer corps for which he received payment; and whether this is in accordance with the terms of procurator fiscal's appointment.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): The procurator fiscal for the county of Bute is restricted from private practice, but may hold public offices with the approval of the sheriff. He has two deputes. They, as is invariably the case with deputes, are not restricted. In the licensing case referred to in the question I am informed that neither of the deputes appeared in the Justice of Peace Court as depute sheriff's procurator fiscal. Neither depute holds a commission in this court. It is the case that the procurator fiscal is adjutant of a Volunteer corps with the approval of the sheriff. I am informed that it is not the case that he has been absent from the county for weeks or any one week in that capacity.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, DUBLIN.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Board of Works have not provided the necessary temporary additional accommodation in certain departments of the Royal College of Science, Dublin, and that the department of physics is inconvenienced by the want of accommodation, although there is plenty of space available; and whether it is intended to carry out the recommendation to put up a shed to provide room for apparatus and other requisites.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central): The subject of providing temporary additional accommodation for the physical laboratory of the Royal College of Science is under the consideration of the Board of Works and the Department of Agriculture. There is no foundation for the suggestion that the Board of Works have failed to provide additional temporary accommodation in other departments of the institution; no proposal to this effect has been made to the Board.

LAND CASES IN KERRY.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Warden, of Sneem, county Kerry, has served a writ on a tenant named Patrick Sullivan, Kealariddig, for £54 3s. 2d., and that the amount of the writ is calculated on the old rent of £18 per year, including old arrears, although the judicial rent is only £14 per year; whether he is aware that Patrick Sullivan was proceeded against a short time since before the county court judge of Kerry, by whom an order was made that Patrick Sullivan should pay the amount of the process by instalments; and whether, seeing that Patrick Sullivan has since punctually complied with the order of the Court by payment of the instalments, he will state what steps the Government will take to prevent Mr. Warden from executing under the writ for the recovery of money which is already being paid by order of the county court judge by instalments.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts are as stated in the first paragraph, but the judicial rent was only fixed this year. I have no information as to the second paragraph, and, as regards the third paragraph, the Government have no power to take any action such as suggested. I may, however, inform the hon. Member that the amount of the writ has been paid in full.

BELFAST WATER COMMISSION.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the recent awards made by Mr. Ryan, arbitrator under the Commissioners for Public Works in Ireland, in respect of the lands taken from the farmers by the Belfast Water Commissioners, near Carrickfergus, and to the difference between the amount of his awards and the awards by the juries on traverse at the county of Antrim assizes at Belfast; whether he is aware that in the case of a farmer called Legg the arbitrator awarded £20 only, and on traverse the jury at the assizes increased his award to £167, with £15 for costs; and, having regard to the dissatisfaction caused among the farmers by the awards of this arbitrator, whether he will consider the desirability of having the appointment of this arbitrator reconsidered and a man of larger experience appointed in his place.

MR. HANBURY: The Commissioners of Public Works are not responsible for the awards of the arbitrator, but only for his appointment. It is an essential feature of his post that he should occupy an independent position. The Board have no power under the circumstances to revoke the appointment.

BALLYGAWLEY POST OFFICE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will explain why it has been decided to discontinue the post office at Ballygawley, which has been established for fifteen years, and is as much required for the public convenience now as hitherto; and seeing that the present postmaster, Mr. Bernard Kelly, who took up the office in succession to his mother, and has held it for ten years, when he got the appointment made at the request of the postal authorities structural alterations in the premises at a cost of £25, the Postmaster General, if the office is to be closed, will consider the question of refunding this amount to Mr. Kelly.

MR. HANBURY: There are two post offices at places named Ballygawley in Ireland; but in neither case is Kelly the name of the sub-postmaster. The Postmaster General is not aware of any proposal for abolishing either of these offices. If the hon. Member will communicate to the Postmaster General the full particulars on which the question is based, inquiry shall be made on the subject.

PARCELS POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General will reconsider the question of relieving the postmen in Bray, Kingstown, and Howth of the loads of parcels which they are now obliged to carry, by providing hand-carts or other vehicles for their conveyance and delivery.

MR. HANBURY: As stated in the reply given to the hon. Member on the 2nd instant, care is always taken to provide against any postmen being overloaded; and he may rest assured that when it becomes necessary to provide handcarts at the places he mentions they will be supplied.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I will show the right hon. Gentleman a picture of these overloaded postmen.

MARLBOROUGH STREET, DUBLIN, TRAINING COLLEGE—SPRINGTOWN EVENING SCHOOL.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education (Ireland) received a memorandum from the teachers at present at the course of hand and eye training in Marlborough Street, requesting an increase in the personal allowance of 3s. per day given them while in Dublin attending the lectures; and, if so, what action have the Board taken on the matter; have the Board acknowledged the receipt of that memorandum, or communicated their decision on it to those teachers; and can he state whether the teachers who attended a course of lectures in 1883 to prepare them for the office of organiser received 7s. 6d. as personal allowance per diem, and have the Commissioners refused to grant even 3s. per day to the majority of Dublin teachers attending the course; and, seeing that those teachers have sacrificed their annual holidays, and in many cases have provided substitutes in their schools at their own expense, to forward the new scheme of the Board without any prospect of personal gain, whether he will recommend that proper allowance is made in all cases.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Springtown Evening School, county Longford, Roll No. 8470, has been recognised by the Commissioners of National Education for the six months ending 30th April, 1900, and that the emoluments of the teacher, as set forth by National Board's circular, were to consist of salary, results fees, and customs and excise grant; and whether, seeing that, although the inspector examined and reported favourably on above-named evening school, the teacher has only received salary as yet at the rate of £1 per month, any further sum will be paid him in lieu of abolished results fees and the customs grant; and, if so, when will the payments be made.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: These questions were only placed on the Paper this morning, and there has not been sufficient time to obtain reports upon them to-day from Dublin. The desired information has been called for, and will be privately communicated to the hon. Member when received.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will it be possible to give an answer to-morrow?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I cannot say.

MITCHELSTOWN UNION MAGISTRACY.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to a resolution adopted unanimously by the guardians of Mitchelstown Union on the 2nd instant, respecting the public inconvenience caused by the want of magistrates in the petty sessions district, and to the fact that only one justice resides in the town, and he is disqualified to adjudicate in certain cases; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made with a view to remedying the inconvenience complained of.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have seen the resolution referred to. There are four justices, I understand, already resident in or near Michelstown, and I am not aware that any inconvenience has been caused to the public, as alleged in the question. The Lieutenant of the county will consider the names of any suitable gentleman who may be recommended to him for appointment to the Commission of the Peace in the district.

RAILWAY EXTENSION TO BELMULLET.

MR. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a resolution adopted by the Belmullet Rural District Council, on 21st July, in which a resolution previously passed by the Mayo County Council was unanimously endorsed, calling on the Government to construct a line of railway to Belmullet for the purpose of developing the industries and resources of the localities through which the proposed railway would pass; if he knows from personal acquaintance with the districts around Belmullet that such a railway would be of advantage to the commercial and industrial needs of the people of that union, as well as to the people of the neighbouring unions; and if, seeing the want of adequate means of transit in the unions in question, he can hold out any hope that the Government will proceed in the direction indicated by the resolutions of the Belmullet Rural District Council and the Mayo County Council.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The resolution referred to has been received, but there is no money available for the purpose, and I am not in a position to hold out any hopes on the subject. I may remind the hon. Member that the question of railway communication to Belmullet was carefully considered some years ago, and that the Government, while unable to approve of the application of funds for the construction of a railway, have established steamship communication between Belmullet and Sligo.

THE GRAND CANAL COMPANY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has seen a letter of Mr. Kirkland, manager of the Grand Canal Company, in which he states that, although his company pays over £2,000 a year in tolls to the Government through the Irish Board of Works, they refuse to reduce the tolls or afford facilities for carrying on their trade with Limerick; that in the year 1898, the towing-path on the Government Canal between Killaloe and Limerick was so flooded that the Grand Canal Company's traffic was stopped, and that their boat cargoes had to be sent by rail from Killaloe to Limerick; also, that the crane at Banagher recently broke down, killing a man; and also that the Grand Canal Company have been charged tolls on as much as five tons per boat more cargo than they got freight for themselves; and whether he will inquire into the truth of these complaints, and see that such a reduction of tolls is made and such facilities of trading is afforded where the Government have control (notably under the Board of Works) as will enable the Grand Canal Company's trading competition to be maintained in the public interest.

MR. HANBURY: This question only appeared on the Notice Paper to-day, and I have been unable to obtain any information with regard to it.

SNEEM PIER.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how long it is since Mr. Warden, of Sneem, county Kerry, signified his intention of erecting the store at Sneem Pier; what steps have been taken by Mr. Warden to carry out his intentions; and, if nothing has been done, will the Government make a representation to Mr. Warden to allow others who are prepared to do so to erect this store for the protection of traders' goods.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not aware that Mr. Warden stated it was his intention to erect a store at Sneem Pier, but in July, 1899, he informed the Congested Districts Board that it was the intention of the owners to build a store at their convenience. No representations have since been received from Mr. Warden, but the Board will communicate with him in the matter.

THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will introduce a Bill to render operative at the earliest possible date the register of electors which in the ordinary course will be completed in the month of October, and come into operation on the 1st January next.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Gentleman is very sanguine if he thinks that on the day of the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill we could introduce a Registration Bill.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

*MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the First

Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the continued effect of the Continental bounty system upon the British sugar refining industry, as evidenced by the closing of two more important refineries at Liverpool during the past year, Her Majesty's Government intend to take any decisive measures for the relief of that industry from a system which is calculated to result in its extinction.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Before I can give any answer about the decisive measures of which my hon. friend speaks in his question, I ought to have some clear idea of what those measures are.

*Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I should like to ask whether the Government will consider the advisability of entering into negotiations with bounty-giving States with a view to prohibiting the use of bounty-fed sugar under a penal clause.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have hopes that all the chief bounty-giving countries —France, Germany, Russia, and Austria —will abandon the bounties; but I would not like to pledge myself to that.

COPYRIGHT BILL [Lords]
AND
COPYRIGHT (ARTISTIC) BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Copyright Bill [Lords], and the Copyright (Artistic) Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, etc.—(*Mr. Attorney General.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Supplemental War Loan Bill.

Amendment to Amendments to—

Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill.

Amendments to—

Colonial Stock Bill [Lords].

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], without amendment.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by this House in the present Session of Parliament on War Office Contracts, together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence.

Printed Copy to be communicated accordingly.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Resolved, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Ten of the clock."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

COLONIAL STOCK BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

New clause—

"In the application of this Act to Scotland the words 'Trusts (Scotland) Amendment Act, 1884,' shall be substituted for the words 'Trustee Act, 1893,' where those words first occur in Section 2; and the restrictions mentioned at the end of the said section shall apply."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a second time."

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said be pointed out when the Bill was in Committee that it would not apply to Scotland. The Lord Advocate had now introduced a new clause to the effect that it should apply to Scotland. There were some obvious advantages in that. It was quite true that the Court of Session had power to approve of Colonial investments, and in all probability that court would include those sanctioned by the Treasury. But it was necessary at present that application should be made to the Court of Session in every individual case. The effect of making this measure applicable to Scotland would be that a special application to the Court of Session would not be necessary in every case in respect of these Colonial investments. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement the other day from which it appeared that he intended that there should be some procedure whereby stockholders should have the advantage of the jurisdiction of the English courts in certain eventualities.

Scotch law was different from English law, and he suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should make the conditions of the procedure cover the jurisdiction of the Scotch courts in matters where Scotch stockholders were concerned. At the same time, he had no objection whatever to the new clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time, and added.

An Amendment made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL said he wished to say a few words on the Bill, because it marked a new departure in the legislation of this country. Hitherto Parliament had passed Acts of Parliament authorising trustees to invest certain moneys in Colonial stocks in so far as the trustees were not limited by the trust deed, but in all cases the Acts had defined the conditions. Those conditions were such as that authorising investments in debenture stock where for ten years immediately preceding a dividend of not less than 3 per cent. had been paid on the ordinary stock; but in every case the conditions, whatever they might be, were set forth in the Act of Parliament. This Bill, however, authorised the investment of trust money in certain Colonial stocks which had observed certain conditions. Those conditions were not laid down in the Bill, but they were conditions which the Treasury, in some way not defined, might prescribe. They might be prescribed without any Parliamentary supervision or control, it not even being necessary to lay the conditions before Parliament. The Treasury was also empowered to alter the conditions from time to time. There were several inconvenient practical results of this new legislation. The Imperial Treasury and the self-governing colonies would be brought into direct contact with respect to the most delicate of all questions—financial questions. Their interests would be somewhat divergent. On the one side the Imperial Treasury would be anxious to protect the safety of the investor, and on the other hand the colonists would be anxious to borrow money as cheaply as they could to keep up the value of their existing stock, and in order to put new stocks in the market on as favourable terms as they possibly could. Thus there might be a danger of friction arising between the mother country and the colonies owing to this new relationship that was established between them. But the Bill went much further. By the Bill the Treasury assumed a new responsibility. At present the Treasury had nothing whatever to do with what trustees might invest in, but under the Bill the Treasury assumed an undoubted responsibility in selecting particular Colonial stocks which trustees might invest in. Then the Treasury fixed the conditions which a colony was to observe as regards new stock, and the Treasury might alter these conditions from time to time in the interest either of the investor or of the colony. As regarded investments so sanctioned by the Treasury, it would be difficult for the Treasury or the nation as a whole to avoid a certain responsibility if any complication should arise between the holders of such stock and the colony, as the Bill conferred on the Treasury power to make conditions, and these conditions were not set forth in the Bill. They were, of course, on the Third Reading quite entitled to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions he proposed to make. The right hon. Gentleman certainly mentioned some on the Second Reading, and possibly he had reconsidered these conditions and would be able to give to the House more authoritatively what the final decision was as to these investments outside the United Kingdom. Two conditions would be required. One was that a certain fund should be settled in this country, and certain parties should be responsible in this country, so that the jurisdiction of the courts would be available in the event of any question arising between the holder of the stock and the colony. The other condition which would have to be made was that the colony should not tax that particular stock in such a way as to alter its value. It was obvious that in this instance the colonies had taken advantage of having sent troops to South Africa with the view of securing favourable terms for themselves in regard to these financial questions. The colonies had everything to gain by this Bill. They naturally would have a larger supply of capital, and eventually there must be cheaper money in the colonies. But what might be the result in this country of such powers for investment in the colonies? Money in this country obviously was likely to become somewhat dearer. That would be an advantage no doubt to the investing public at home, but certainly not an advantage to the borrowing public who required money for the purposes of industries at home. It might, indeed, be doubted how far a too ready flow of money was an advantage even to a colony. In passing this Bill the House was undoubtedly conferring very considerable advantages on the colonies. They were getting practically all the advantages belonging to the mother country, while, on the other hand, they did not bear any of the burdens or responsibilities which attended even their own colony as part of the Empire. Take, for instance, the case of Canada, which this Bill was calculated specially to benefit. Canada contributed nothing whatever for the Navy, although if Canada were an independent nation she would require a Navy of her own. Canada contributed nothing for the British Army, although if an independent nation she would require to protect her frontier against the United States. Canada was receiving the benefit of our naval and military expenditure while practically contributing nothing to the Imperial revenue. This, of course, increased the risk of friction between this country and the United States. He thought the time had come when we were quite entitled to raise the question whether the colonies were to reap all the advantages, while we were not to receive anything in return. It was very much to be regretted that a Bill of this importance should be passed through the House at this late period of the session. The House ought to have had an opportunity of discussing it at an earlier period.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) thanked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for having enlarged the discretion of trustees as to the investments in which money under their control might be safely and securely deposited. He could not agree with the hon. Member for Mid Lanark that the benefits were all in favour of the colonies. Let them admit that there was a concession to colonial opinion, he thought most wisely on Imperial grounds, but on the other hand our country was benefited by the larger range of investments, and by the very safe security given owing to the industrial development in many of our colonies. The right hon. Gentleman had given powers to trustees which would be exercised with discretion under rules and regulations which would be framed. He had thus added a new outlet for British capital. He admitted that this was a new departure, but it was a wise one. Such changes were not only desirable in respect of the colonies, but also in a very large degree at home. The principle on which this Bill was based was one he should like the right hon. Gentleman to consider in reference to investments in our own country with the view of enlarging the sphere in one or two ways. He passed to another point which interested himself officially, as Chancellor of the Exchequer—namely, investments authorised to be made in respect of savings bank money so far as surplus deposits were concerned. The right hon. Gentleman had attempted very properly to enlarge his own means of investment this session, and although his Bill had met with opposition in some quarters, he thought that, keeping in view the changes that must take place in 1903, it was a matter that demanded careful consideration before any step was taken affecting such large and wide interests as those of the depositors in savings banks and the great economic principles on which these institutions were founded. Not only should the right hon. Gentleman seek a larger discretion for himself in dealing with these moneys, but he should extend the powers of trustees of savings banks in respect of investments they might make, especially in the large field of municipal, school board, and other similar local securities. In fact, the whole subject of trustee investments was ripe for review and re-consideration, and he hoped that at no distant date it would be taken up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that the House would have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown himself ready to listen to the representations which were made to him with respect to the Savings Banks Bill, by referring it and his (Sir Albert's) own Bill to a Select Committee with power to take evidence. He expressed the hope that if the right hon.

Gentleman proposed to deal with the subject by Bill in future he would again feel at liberty to send it for examination by a Select Committee. But he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before any measure was brought in in future, if any measure must be introduced, would either appoint a Royal Commission, which he thought would be the best mode of dealing with so large and important a subject, or introduce the Bill simply with the object of referring it to a Select Committee for consideration.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I should not like the suggestion of the hon. Baronet to go forth without an expression of doubt from one who, like himself, is interested in finance. I think it would be a most dangerous thing for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask for, or the House to grant, enlarged powers of investment in regard to funds of savings banks. Those funds are very large, and they are payable at call. It is very doubtful whether there is anything like an adequate reserve; there certainly is no cash reserve; and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer were enabled to put his savings bank money into second-class securities—I will not say bad securities—it would be a very dangerous increase of the risk which already too much surrounds savings banks. I was very desirous to make this remark, so that the statement of the hon. Baronet should not go forth as though unquestioned by the House. I think there is a certain danger in this Bill also. It practically gives an artificial character to colonial investments, endowing them with a sacredness and a "gilt-edged" character which they did not before possess: it enables trustees to invest in them. The result will be, I am afraid, to encourage the colonies to go on borrowing even more than they have done. I have very grave doubts as to the propriety of the course pursued by a great many of our colonies in the exercise of their borrowing powers. This Bill will undoubtedly encourage them to borrow more, and that, I think, is a very great danger to the colonies, and it is a danger which we undertake to share with them by this Bill. We have entered into partnership with the colonies, become guarantors of their solvency, and to that extent have encouraged them in a course which in many cases is very likely to lead to serious embarrassment in future.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out 'the twenty-fifth day of' and insert 'in'"

—agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 3, at end, to insert 'Provided that where a person receiving and paying rent in respect of the same holding would not, if the principal Act or this Act had not passed, have been entitled to deduct more than half the poor rate from the rent paid by him, the reduction or deduction which may be made under the said sub-section (4), either as extended or not, shall be calculated on the assumption that the occupier was entitled to deduct half the standard amount for poor rate in the standard financial year'"

—read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) submitted that this Amendment constituted a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons. It was a well understood and established practice that the House of Lords could not alter in the slightest degree any matter dealing with public moneys. This Amendment altered the variation of the poor rate which the tenant was liable to pay, and therefore could not be entertained by the House. It would tax the patience and ability of any man of ordinary intelligence to understand the general effect of the proviso in question, encased as it was with limitations and references to sections and subsections in three or four different Acts of Parliament. This much, however, was clear, that a variation of the payment of the poor rate was designed and must be carried out by the Amendment here made, and therefore it came within the strict rule in reference to the Lords dealing with public moneys.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member asks me, without being able to state exactly what the proviso means, to say that it is a breach of privilege. I cannot say that the proviso is a breach of privilege. I have great difficulty, certainly, in understanding what its effect on the rest of the Bill is, but, as far as I can gather, the section does not propose directly to alter the incidence of taxation. What it does propose to do is to deal with the case of a middleman who has to pay rents and receive rents, and with certain difficulties that arise under the principal Act or may arise under Section 3 as to the distribution of the rate in such a case. It may be that some jot or tittle of alteration of the incidence of taxation may be involved, but there is nothing which I can describe as a breach of privilege after such consideration as I have been able to give to the matter. The hon. Member puts it too high in supposing that the House of Lords cannot in any way whatever touch a question of rating. In dealing with Bills relating to local government, in which rating is involved, this House has never considered that the House of Lords cannot make any amendment. I cannot see that there is any breach of privilege involved in the proviso, and therefore I cannot withdraw it from the House.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) suggested that the Attorney General for Ireland should explain the proviso.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. G. W. **Balfour**, Leeds, Central) said the proviso dealt with a very small and unimportant point. It did not affect any question of rating, at any rate directly, but simply referred to the temporary adjustment of deductions as between middlemen and head landlords. The law up to the present had been that the middleman might deduct from the head landlord in proportion to the deduction made by the occupying tenant from the middleman. There appeared to have been a certain number of cases in which the occupying tenant was entitled, under contract, to deduct the entire of the poor rate, while the middleman, under his contract with the head landlord, was limited to a deduction of one-half, and it was in order to preserve the advantage given to the head landlord by such special contracts that this Amendment had been inserted. Such cases, however, were extremely few, but as far as the Amendment went it seemed to be correct in principle.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 2, line 23 (leave out Clause 4), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL considered that the elimination of Clause 4 amounted to a breach of privilege, and that it should be restored to the Bill. The Lords were constitutionally wrong in taking away the clause, as a matter of public rating was dealt with. He could not push this so far as to say that it was a breach of privilege so clear that Mr. Speaker would deal with it, but he thought it was a case well within the purview of the House to deal with, because it altered the financial arrangement of the Bill.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: As I understand it the matter stands thus: There are certain charges called exclusive charges, which, under the Act of 1898, must be provided for by a special rate. That rate should only raise sufficient money exactly to cover the charge. But sometimes it would be covered by a rate, say, of 2⅛d., but, for convenience sake, those who assess the rate raise a rate of 2¼d. When they have done that, there is a surplus, but there is no power to dispose of that surplus, which has to be carried to a suspense account. What this Section 4 does, as I understand, is this. It is not a rating clause at all. It is a clause merely for the convenience of collection, and, for the convenience of collection, it proposes that those who levy the rate of, say, 2⅛d. may levy a legal rate of 2¼d., and they may legally dispose of the surplus to a particular fund. That is the whole object of the section that has been struck out by the House of Lords. It is not a rating clause. Incidentally I agree with the hon. Member that it may make some trivial difference, but I hardly think that constitutes a breach of the privileges of this House. It is a very slight, insignificant and incidental difference that may arise in carrying out what this House thinks is a convenient method of collection, and I cannot see that this Amendment is out of order, on the ground that it is a breach of privilege.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR appealed to the Government after the statement of Mr. Speaker to reinsert the clause in the Bill. The Government did not in the first instance make this proposal until having duly considered it. It was not his business to speak for the Government, but it seemed to him that the suggestion of his hon. friend was quite a reasonable one. Under the circumstances he thought the Government ought to restore the clause.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I can hardly agree with the views of the hon. Member who has just sat down upon this question. I agree that the original proposal was eminently reasonable and desirable from the point of view of convenience, but considering the late period of the session which we have reached, I am afraid that if we insist upon this clause being re-inserted there may be a very great danger of losing the Bill altogether. The question to be considered is whether, for the sake of this clause, it is worth while undergoing that serious risk. The clause is in no way connected with the other clauses of the Bill, and the omission of it will not affect the material clauses of the Bill. It will cause a certain amount of inconvenience and will necessitate the establishment of a certain number of suspense accounts in the different areas of taxation in Ireland, but I do not think that that inconvenience is so very serious as to require that we should enter into a conflict with the Lords at this period of the session. Sooner or later we shall have to deal with the matter. I think we may submit to this inconvenience, in the hope that it may be removed another year, rather than run the risk of losing the Bill.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said the Members of the House of Lords were overwhelmingly in favour of the Bill, and surely the right hon. Gentleman ought to put his foot down and have the courage to put in this section, which was supported in another place by two Cabinet Ministers, one of whom had declared that it was an infringement of the privileges of this House. The right hon. Gentleman was wrong in saying that the Lords were against this clause. One Lord, and one Lord only, objected to the clause, and that noble Lord was the last person in the world to take the responsibility of wrecking the Bill. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury, who had said he never read the papers——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said nothing of the kind.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Well, you read them only when they contain something sensational. If the right hon. Gentleman will read the column in *The Times*, headed "Imperial Parliament," he will find a report of the proceedings of the Lords yesterday with regard to this Bill, and he will see something, as they say in the agony column, to his advantage.

MR. BIRRELL (Fifeshire W.) asked why should these suspense accounts be opened all over Ireland because of the factious behaviour of some irresponsible person elsewhere. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland had admitted that this change had frustrated the usefulness of the measure, and why should a reasonable proposal be made impossible simply because it was feared that somebody would be kept a few hours longer? Under these circumstances the House would make itself ridiculous if it did not insist upon restoring the clause.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 100; Noes, 59. (Division List No. 290.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Goschen,Rt.Hn.G.J (St.Geo.'s
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D.(Shrewsb'y)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHon.LordGeorge
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Heath, James
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James H. C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, SirEDurning-(Corn
Llewelyn,SirDillwyn-(Sw'ns'a
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowles, John
Lowther,RtHnJW (Cumb'l'nd
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Morrison,JamesA. (Wilts., S.)
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Penn, John
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ritchie,Rt.Hon.ChasThomson
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith,JamesParker (Lanarks.
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stephens, Henry Charles
Strauss, Arthur
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Welby,Lt.-Cl.A.C.E.(Taunt'n)
Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork, N.E.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Baker, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Foster,Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kitson, Sir James
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell,Dr.M.A.(Qn's C.)
M'Arthur, William(Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mather, William
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Williams,JohnCarvell(Notts.)
Wilson,HenryJ.(York, W. R.)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. MacNeill and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

A consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR asked if the Chief Secretary would promise to take the earliest opportunity of remedying the defect caused in the Bill by the Lords Amendment.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: In all probability we shall introduce a Bill next year to restore the clause which the Lords have thrown out.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendment considered.

Lords Amendment, in page 2, line 11 (after "haggard" to insert "or"), agreed to.

Lords Amendment, in page 2, line 11 (to leave out from "orchard" to "from" in line 12), read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he knew that it was hopeless after the last division to oppose the Lords Amendment; but, as he feared that this Amendment would interfere with the carrying out of useful tramway projects, he asked the Attorney General for Ireland for some explanation. The Bill was backed by all parties in Ireland. He must say that in the whole history of the House of Lords a more stupid interference had never been attempted by them with any Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must speak respectfully of the Members of the other House.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Very well; but the fact remained that if this Amendment were insisted upon it was another evidence of the proceedings of this House being controlled by the House of Lords, even when that Chamber was not able to muster a quorum. He did not feel disposed to destroy the Bill, but he wished the Attorney General to tell the House the exact meaning of the words struck out of the Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) said that the original Bill of 1860 prevented a tramway company from acquiring compulsorily ornamental timber, gardens and orchards attached to houses built with bricks. The Bill as it left the House repealed that section, and the House of Lords had struck out the words in regard to a plantation, so that it would not be possible for a tramway company to acquire compulsorily any plantation attached to any house of any character.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR hoped that, after the triumphant exposure of the methods pursued in the House of Lords, the right hon. Gentleman would reject this ridiculous Amendment, and restore the Bill to the original state in which it left the House of Commons. His hon. friend was so anxious that the Bill should pass even in its truncated shape that he was not disposed to push things to extremities; but the right hon. Gentleman should really insist on restoring the Bill to its original and rational shape without amendment. The Government came down and asked the House to accept this Amendment on the plea that they had no power to influence the matter in another place. That was not the general idea with regard to the action of the Government. He did not wish to accuse the Government of any omission of duty, but when Irish Bills of this importance were brought in they ought to take the necessary means to prevent them being mutilated by the fractious conduct of the other House.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL deplored the fact that such a healthy measure as the Government had produced, and which they had themselves drafted, should be checked in its action by the vote of a single Lord. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to do something to remove that check.

Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, on behalf of the Government, joined hon. Members opposite in regretting the Amendments made by the House of Lords, but he thought it was better, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, to give way, because if they did not they might lose the whole Bill. The hon. Member for Kilkenny would exercise a very wise discretion in not pressing the matter to a division.

Question put, and agreed to.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said he desired to call the attention of the House to the end of the last paragraph of this clause. He did not know why it was necessary to insert it. It seemed to him that Clause 2 of the Public Accounts and Charges Act gave all the necessary power. It might possibly be that the paragraph was a survival of the times before the Public Accounts and Charges Act was passed, and if that were so he would commend it to the attention of those who drafted the Bill, who might study the matter during the recess. The point he wished to make was that this paragraph brought for the first time under the purview of the House the appropriations-in-aid. It was quite true that the estimated amount of the appropriations had been before the House, but that was another matter. By a considered ruling the Chairman had ruled that the appropriations-in-aid could not be attacked in Committee. He did not himself intend to move any Amendment, but there was now nothing to prevent any hon. Member moving an Amendment if he chose. His object in rising was to call attention to the very large increase in the appropriations-in-aid. In 1896–97, excluding the ordnance factories, which ought not to be excluded, the appropriations-in-aid effected by this clause amounted to £5,700,000; in 1897–98, £5,900,000; in 1898–99, £6,700,000; and in 1899–1900, £6,965,600, an increase of a million and a quarter in four years for appropriations-in-aid, which were entirely withdrawn from the purview of the House. The large increase in these appropriations-in-aid was a matter seriously deserving the attention of the right hon. Gentleman the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and the House. He hoped next year instead of an increase the amount would be largely diminished.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) said the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly well aware that it had been the consistent policy of the Public Accounts Committee for the last ten or twelve years to recommend that wherever it was possible to alter the payments from Exchequer receipts into appropriations-in-aid that should be done. The hon. Gentleman had plenty of opportunity to convince the Public Accounts Committee upon that technical subject. No doubt these appropriations-in-aid had largely increased during the last few years, but that had been due to the recommendation of the Committee having been followed. The result was that wherever the receipts were small and variable in amount they were made direct. It was not so much a matter for the Treasury as for the Committee of Public Accounts.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he only wished to emphasise the fact that these appropriations-in-aid were withdrawn from the control of the Committee and were largely increasing, and he respectfully submitted that this was a matter the Committee ought to consider.

Clause 3 and the remaining clauses were agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

POST OFFICE MAIL CONTRACT—SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

MR. HANBURY said he thought he ought to give some explanation with regard to this matter. The only variations from the existing contract were on three points. The House was aware that the services between this country and the east and west coasts of South America were carried on by alternate services—by the Royal Mail Steamship Company from Southampton and the Steam Navigation Company from Liverpool. The only alteration so far as the places to be visited were concerned was that these steamers would call once a month at the Falkland Islands, and there would be a return service from the Falkland Islands to Liverpool; and on the west coast of America there would be a new service from Panama to places in Mexico. An important alteration had been introduced into the system of payment. We had hitherto paid by weight, but in future under this ten years contract we should pay a lump sum. He thought that was decidedly advantageous, because there was no doubt whatever that the traffic along these coasts would grow considerably during the next ten years, and whatever the growth might be we should only pay in the future £30,000 a year, £2,500 of the £32,500 being paid by the Falkland Islands. The payment by weight came to £25,000, so that even upon the present service these important services would only amount to £5,000 more.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the contract dated the 1st day of June, 1900, entered into with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of mails between Liverpool and South and Central America and the Falkland Islands be approved."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

MR. CALDWELL did not propose to go into the merits. He rose to protest against this contract being brought forward upon the last day of the session. He pointed out that the contract was entered into on June 1st, and under those circumstances he thought it ought to have been brought forward earlier.

MR. HANBURY explained that that date was put on in order that there might be no hiatus between the old contract and this. This contract was only signed on the 1st of August.

MR. CALDWELL said it was impossible to consider a contract of this nature at this time. He hoped in future these contracts would be brought in at a much earlier stage of the session. He could not allow this to pass without a protest.

Question put, and agreed to.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1900.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Report of the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory upon the work of the Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1900; with appendices. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Regulations, 1900.

FORESHORES.

Treasury Minute, dated 7th August, 1900, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1900 in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the foreshores of the United Kingdom.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

Report, etc., of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. Communicated, pursuant to Message of yesterday, and to be printed. (No. 230.)

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2^a.—(*The Earl Waldegrave.*) Committee negatived. Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed:—

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Supplemental War Loan.
2. Elementary Education.
3. Executors (Scotland).
4. Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries etc.)
5. Naval Reserve.
6. Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland).
7. Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment.
8. Agricultural Holdings.
9. Companies.
10. Town Councils (Scotland).
11. Money Lending.
12. County Courts (Investment of Deposits).
13. Military Lands.
14. Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment.
15. Local Government (Ireland).
16. Colonial Stock.
17. Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway.
18. Manchester Corporation Tramways.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands), as followeth:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"My relations with the Powers of Europe and America continue to be friendly.

"I have given my assent with sincere pleasure to the Act establishing the Commonwealth of Australia, which will weld together in close and indissoluble union the federating Colonies, and will add to the strength and resources of this portion of my Empire.

"The war in South Africa, into which this country has been forced by the aggressive action of the two Dutch Republics, has not yet reached its conclusion; but my armies have driven back the invaders beyond the frontier they had crossed, and have occupied the two capitals of the enemy and much of his territory. The operations which have been conducted for this purpose have in many parts been marked by brilliant skill and success, and have placed in the strongest light the heroism and the high military qualities of the troops who have been brought together under my banner from this country, from Canada, from Australasia, and from my South African possessions.

"Believing that the continued political independence of the two Republics would be a constant danger to the peace of

South Africa, I have authorised the annexation of the Orange Free State to my Empire. I trust that this will be the first step towards the union of races under institutions which, while establishing from the outset good and just government for all, may be in time developed so as to secure equal rights and privileges in my South African dominions.

"The British and other Legations at Peking have been unexpectedly attacked by an insurgent mob, and it is feared that many of their inmates have been murdered. How far Chinese authorities were accomplices in this atrocious crime, and whether the British Minister and his family have been among the victims, are matters that are still in some uncertainty. The utmost efforts will be made by myself and my allies to visit with worthy punishment the authors of this unexampled crime. I have sent a considerable force of British and Indian troops to assist in protecting the interests of Europeans in that country, and have largely reinforced my squadron in those waters.

"I regret that a rising of the Ashanti and other tribes in the neighbourhood of Coomassie has made it necessary to despatch an expedition for the relief of that place, where the Governor of the colony was besieged by overwhelming numbers. I have learned with satisfaction that my troops, which consist entirely of local levies under British officers, have effected the object of the expedition, in spite of the stubborn resistance of the insurgent tribes and the great difficulties of climate and season with which they have had to contend.

"In my Indian dominions the failure of the rains last autumn has caused intense and prolonged distress over a large part of the country. Strenuous and persistent endeavour has been made by my Governments to relieve suffering and prevent starvation. The self-denying efforts of my officers, and of the many private persons who have joined in the relief operations, deserve the highest commendation.

"Though the fall of rain this season has been abnormally late, it is hoped that its volume may be sufficient to rapidly curtail the present area of distress, and restore to the people their previous means of livelihood.

"The epidemic of plague continues, but the extent and virulence of the disease have decreased, and there has been a marked diminution in the mortality.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"I thank you for the liberality with which you have responded to the unwonted demands I have been compelled to make on you. The satisfactory progress of the campaign in South Africa gives fair ground for hoping that the excessive requirements of military expenditure will be soon abated.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"Though the time has not been favourable to legislation upon internal questions, I congratulate you on having added to the Statute-book several enactments which will be advantageous to industry and commerce. The passage of a measure for increasing the security of tenant-farmers in the value of their own improvements, and for extending the law of compensation for accidents to the farm labourer, will have a beneficial influence upon agriculture. A valuable Bill has been passed with the object of preventing the accidents to which railway servants have been exposed in the performance of their duty.

"The Bill for the regulation of Limited Companies, and for the discovery of fraud in the conduct of them, will supply a want that has long been keenly felt. The Bill that has been passed for regulating the business of money-lenders will also tend to check transactions of an oppressive and injurious character.

"The measure you have passed for facilitating the erection of dwellings for the working classes will afford some assistance in the solution of a problem of which the difficulty appears to increase with every succeeding year.

"The Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) and the Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Acts will remove long-standing causes of friction and injustice. Measures have also been passed for augmenting our Naval reserves, and for rendering our Volunteer forces more available for purposes of home defence.

"I pray that Almighty God may have you in His keeping, and that His blessing may be with you."

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday the twenty-seventh day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday the twenty-seventh day of October next."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 8*th August,* 1900.

The House met at Ten of the clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 361.]

LUNATICS AND EPILEPTICS IN WORKHOUSES.

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 362.]

CLERGY (WEST INDIES).

Paper [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 363.]

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.

Account [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 364.]

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 365.]

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 366.]

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 367.]

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF DURHAM).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 368.]

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 369.]

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 370.]

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF CARDIGAN).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 371.]

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF PEMBROKE).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 372.]

ENDOWED CHARITIES (COUNTY OF RADNOR).

Return [presented 7th August] to be printed. [No. 373.]

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Copy presented, of Thirty-eighth Report of the Royal Commissioners [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY) WORKS.

Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Barracks Act, 1890, and Military Works Acts, 1897 and 1899 (in substitution of Command Paper 82, of Session 1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 7th August; *Mr. H. J. Wilson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 374.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Members of Parliament (Service on Committees).—Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to be printed. [No. 375.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by Order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1900, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 26th Parliament, Seventh Session, 63 and 64 Vic., 30th January, 1900, to 8th August, 1900; to be printed. [No. 376.]

QUESTIONS.

CHINA—ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK—ADVANCE ON PEKING.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information with regard to the advance on Peking.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No, Sir. We have no information.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—DISCOVERY OF DOCUMENTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA SAID TO IMPLICATE M.P.'S.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I rise to call attention to a matter which affects the privileges and practice of this House. I wish, Sir, to ask you whether the Speaker, as the guardian of the rights and privileges of the House, is not entitled to request the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary to produce certain letters which he says he has in his possession, and which affect Members of this House—letters which the right hon. Gentleman quoted from on Friday last.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of privilege involved, and the hon. Member cannot address the House except upon a question of privilege. I have no right to ask a Minister such a question as he suggests.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: You will bear with me. This is a very serious matter.

*MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow the hon. Member to occupy the time of the House on the suggestion that something is a matter of privilege which does not involve any question of privilege.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: It involves—[Ministerial cries of "Order, order!"] I shall not be shouted down. It involves the honour of Members of this House. The Colonial Secretary has made a statement which affects the honour of Members of this House.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a question of privilege.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: But is there not a ruling by Sir Erskine May, that no Member of the House shall read or quote from a document unless he is prepared to lay it upon the Table?

*MR. SPEAKER: I am quite aware of the ruling the hon. Member refers to. If any member of the Government were to quote from some document, there may be a right to have the whole of it read. That is a question of order, not of privilege, and the point of order should be raised at the moment the question arises. There is no question of privilege at all.

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY.

The following question appeared on the Paper:—

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can arrange for the early publication of the evidence given before Lord Justice Romer's Commission prior to the departure of the Commissioners for South Africa.

The HON. MEMBER said: I do not propose to put this question, as I have received from the right hon. Gentleman an explanation why he cannot accede to my request.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Has any estimate been formed of the date on which the Report of the Commission may be expected?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No, Sir; I have no authoritative statement, but I do not anticipate that the South African Inquiry will take a great deal of time.

IRELAND—TRAMORE PIER.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is yet in a position to say if the Lords of the Treasury will make the necessary grant for the erection of a pier at Tramore for the landing of fish; and, if so, what amount the Treasury will grant, and when the work will commence.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): This question only appeared on the Paper this morning. I really cannot give the hon. Member the information he desires.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I put the question down in consequence of what the right hon. Gentleman said yesterday.

MARLBOROUGH STREET TRAINING COLLEGE, DUBLIN—TEACHERS' PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education (Ireland) received a memorandum from the teachers at present at the course of hand and eye training in Marlborough Street, requesting an increase in the personal allowance of 3s. per day given them while in Dublin attending the lectures; and, if so, what action have the Board taken on the matter; have the Board acknowledged the receipt of that memorandum, or communicated their decision on it to those teachers; and can he state whether the teachers who attended a course of lectures in 1883 to prepare them for the office of organiser received 7s. 6d. as personal allowance per diem, and have the Commissioners refused to grant even 3s. per day to the majority of Dublin teachers attending the course; and, seeing that those teachers have sacrificed their annual holidays, and in many cases have provided substitutes in their schools at their own expense, to forward the new scheme of the Board without any prospect of personal gain, whether he will recommend that proper allowance is made in all cases.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Memorandum referred to has been received and considered by the Commissioners. The claim of the teachers to an increased personal allowance is not regarded as just or reasonable, and they will be so informed. The teachers residing in Dublin are, of course, not entitled to any such allowance. As the teachers are bound to qualify themselves for giving instruction in the new manual work, their reference to the sacrificing their convenience in the matter of vacation, or in providing substitutes for this purpose, seems to be uncalled for.

SPRINGTOWN EVENING SCHOOL—TEACHERS' EMOLUMENTS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Springtown Evening School, county Longford, Roll No. 8470, has been recognised by the Commissioners of National Education for the six months ending 30th April, 1900, and that the emoluments of the teacher, as set forth by National Board's circular, were to consist of salary, results fees, and customs and excise grant; and whether, seeing that, although the inspector examined and reported favourably on the above-named evening school, the teacher has only received salary as yet at the rate of £1 per month, any further sum will be paid him in lieu of abolished results fees and the customs grants; and, if so, when will the payments be made.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The teacher's emoluments for the six months referred to will consist of salary and the equivalent for results fees and customs grant. The latter item will be remitted at an early date.

GRAND CANAL COMPANY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has seen a letter of Mr. Kirkland, manager of the Grand Canal Company, in which he states that, although his company pays over £2,000 a year in tolls to the Government through the Irish Board of Works, they refuse to reduce the tolls or afford facilities for carrying on their trade with Limerick; that in the year 1898 the towing-path on the Government Canal between Killaloe and Limerick was so flooded that the Grand Canal Company's traffic was stopped, and that their boat cargoes had to be sent by rail from Killaloe to Limerick; also that the crane at Banagher recently broke down, killing a man; and also that the Grand Canal Company have been charged tolls on as much as five tons per boat more cargo than they got freight for themselves; and whether he will inquire into the truth of these complaints, and see that such a reduction of tolls is made and such facilities for trading be afforded where the Government have control (notably under the Board of Works) as will enable the Grand Canal Company's trading competition to be maintained in the public interest.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I answered this question yesterday. I promised to look into the matter and report to the hon. Member.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. URE (Linlithgowshire): I propose on this stage of the Appropriation Bill to raise once more the question of the unsettled claim in connection with the loss of the steamship "Kowshing." This matter has really passed from the region of the personal and local into that of the National and Imperial, and I submit that it is of sufficient gravity to warrant asking the deliberate judgment of the House of Commons. The first duty of a civilised Government is to protect the rights of its citizens abroad—to protect them from oppression, and if it is unwilling to come to their rescue, then it absolutely fails in its duty. On two previous occasions have I had to narrate the facts of this case to this House, and the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs has freely admitted that my statement of them is substantially accurate. I will therefore on this occasion confine myself to the briefest possible recapitulation of the broad facts of the case. Six years ago this British ship was sunk by the Japanese in Chinese waters. But although the guns were fired from a Japanese cruiser, the Chinese Government was alone responsible for the disaster. Of that there can be no possible question. After careful inquiry into the facts of the case, the Government of the day announced their intention of prosecuting the claim of these British subjects against the Chinese Government, and within a short period of the present Administration coming into office they were placed in possession of the necessary details. But from that day to this absolutely no progress has been made, and we seem to be just as near a settlement to-day as we were on the day the disaster occurred. What is the excuse offered for this unconscionable delay? The first was the temporary sickness of the Chinese Ambassador. That served both the Government and China for two whole years! At the end of the two years our Government woke up and again stated the claim. This time we were met by the excuse that it was necessary to translate the documents connected with the case, and that this was a job which would occupy a considerable time. But let the House remember that the Chinese Ambassador at that date was the very official who made the contract with the owners of the "Kowshing." Let it further be borne in mind that the Chinese Government had already had two and a half years to make itself acquainted with the documents, and the House will then be able to judge of the sufficiency of the excuse. Still it was deemed sufficient, and the Government again slumbered and slept. And they have not yet completely awakened from that sleep. I confess there never was a Government so easily deceived and befooled by flimsy excuses. It would almost seem as if this were their first experience of Oriental diplomacy, so guilelessly did they accept the pleas put forward for not paying a just claim. However, the fact remains that for a period of five years excuses as to the sickness of an ambassador, and the necessity for translating a charter-party and other documents satisfied our Government. What could be said of a Government with such an enormous majority, which sought to shake itself free from the responsibility of vindicating the rights of British subjects? Had it been a French, German, Russian, or American subject who had suffered the loss, does any hon. Member for one moment believe that six years would have been allowed to elapse, or that the sufferer's Government would have been put off with such flimsy excuses as those which obviously sufficed for Her Majesty's Government? I venture to say that six months would not have been allowed to elapse without this just claim being enforced. The right hon. Gentleman says, "What am I to do; do you wish me formally to declare war against China for the purpose of enforcing this claim?" Has it really come to this, that the right hon. Gentleman, with all the resources of the British Foreign Office at his back, finds himself to be dead beat when confronted with the task of recovering a few thousand pounds from a recalcitrant foreigner? A Liberal Government sent the British Fleet to the Piræus in order to enforce an admittedly exaggerated claim of a foreigner—a man who was a Jew by religion and a Portuguese by extraction, whose claim against the Greek Government was debated for four nights in the House of Commons—and they refused to withdraw the Fleet until the claim was settled; yet the present Government seems to suggest, through the mouth of the Under Secretary opposite, that in this case the resources of diplomacy are completely exhausted, and that it has no means of recovering this just debt. In view of what appears in the last Blue-book on China, I do not think the right hon. Gentleman will need to pick a quarrel with the Government of China in order to recover compensation for the loss of the "Kowshing." The quarrel has already been picked for him on totally different grounds. Why cannot this claim be pressed to a final settlement? I notice the right hon. Gentleman said, in answer to a question the other day, that the present hitch arose in the adjustment of the terms of reference. I was astonished and disappointed to read that, because, to my mind, it points to this—that China now disputes our claim on its merits; that she now denies liability altogether, and does not merely question the amount. When on previous occasions I have stated the facts in this House I have laid emphasis on the point that the Chinese Government has never disputed its liability, although it had questioned the amount it ought to pay. But now, if I apprehend the right hon. Gentleman's answer aright, China has shifted her ground after a lapse of five years, and maintains that the question of liability is still open. When the right hon. Gentleman replies to me I hope he will state when it was that China for the first time disputed her liability, and what specifically are the grounds on which it disputes what I have regarded as an undeniable claim. Four or more years have elapsed since the Law Officers of the Crown advised this Government that the claim was unanswerable in law, and as I am informed, the highest authority on international law in this country, after closely and narrowly investigating the whole facts, has unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that the Chinese Government is alone to blame. It would be a rather sad thing if at this time of the day the Government were to go into an arbitration, leaving the question of liability open. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not take that course, but that the Government will stand firm, and in the event of an arbitrator being appointed will insist on going before him on only one question—namely, that of amount. Even if that course be adopted there must inevitably be a long delay before this matter can be finally settled. Now, the victims of these long delays do not understand the ways of diplomacy. The widow of the chief engineer of the "Kowshing," who is resident in my constituency, is now almost in despair. She lost her breadwinner, and I am sure the House will admit that her case is a very hard one. I have no reason to suppose that others are not in a like position. These humble people, who have lost their breadwinners, have for upwards of six years been waiting and trusting to the Government to enforce their most just claims. May I offer a suggestion on their behalf to the right hon. Gentleman? The House heard with unfeigned satisfaction, in connection with the "Waima" claims, that the Government were prepared—pending the final settlement—to afford some temporary relief to the sufferers. Will not the Government in this case inquire into the facts and ascertain those sufferers who are really in need of help, and follow the same course as in the Waima case, by affording some temporary alleviation of the long sufferings of these unfortunate people who lost their means of support by this disaster? It is possible—I hope it is not probable—that the right hon. Gentleman will tell us to-day that the hands of the Government are already more than full of British interests requiring protection in the Far East, and that the intensity of the situation at Peking at the present moment eclipses all other interests, and so fully absorbs the energies of the Government that they have practically no time left for the prosecution of this claim. In ordinary circumstances, I think, the House would have been readily prepared to accept that as a sufficient answer, and I, at any rate, would have had such an appreciation of the fitness of things as not to have ventured to raise this question to-day. But the circumstances are different. I am speaking of a wrong committed not yesterday, or six months, or a year ago, but many years since. Now, the extreme gravity of the situation at Peking has only become apparent to us during the present summer, and the period of our breathless anxiety is measured by only ten weeks. Therefore I say the right hon. Gentleman cannot plead that as an excuse or even an explanation of this prolonged delay, of this supineness, this almost culpable negligence of the Government to enforce admittedly just claims, and to perform what I call the rudimentary duty of a civilised Government, to protect the interests of its subjects abroad. I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time this day three months.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to second the motion. I have had an opportunity of perusing the correspondence and the Papers relating to the "Kowshing" incident, and, so far as I am able to judge as a business man, a perfectly undeniable claim is established. But I rose mainly to say that in the course of my journey in the Far East I happened to have as the captain of one of the coasting steamers by which I travelled the man who was first officer on board the "Kowshing," and he told me the facts of the case. The "Kowshing" was sunk not in a moment, but gradually, from the firing of guns from the Japanese cruiser. She would not have been sunk at all had it not been that the British commander and the officers, after they had been summoned and were willing to surrender to the Japanese cruiser, were forcibly prevented from surrendering by the Chinese soldiers on the "Kowshing." I would especially draw the attention of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to that fact. The three Europeans who escaped did so only by diving into the sea and swimming to the Japanese cruiser, being repeatedly fired upon by the Chinese soldiers, who believed that their capture was due to the bribery of the British commander by the Japanese. I venture to say that this is a case which ought to be promptly dealt with by Her Majesty's Government, and that the hardship, suffering, and privation involved to those who have lost their breadwinners deserve sympathetic consideration. I trust we shall have from the Under Secretary an announcement with regard to this case as satisfactory as that which he made in connection with the "Waima" incident, and that when the present hostilities in China are over, Her Majesty's Government, in addition to rendering temporary relief to the sufferers, will take care that in the final settlement a proper adjustment of this claim is included.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Ure.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I regret having to trouble the House for a short time on this occasion, but the necessity for my doing so is the very unusual action of the Government the other day in putting five or six Bills before the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I do not think that that ought to pass without a word of protest, because, in my long recollection of this House, I have never known the Appropriation Bill to be put further down than the second Order, and then only with a very unimportant Bill before it. It is worthy of protest also, because the opportunities of private Members have been so greatly curtailed of recent years that the operations of this House now mainly consist of exchanges of views between the two Government Benches. With regard to the affairs in China, the gravity of the position is obvious to all. I wish it were as clear that Her Majesty's Government realised what the situation demands of them. We have every reason from the past to be suspicious and even distrustful of the policy of Her Majesty's Ministers towards China. During the past six years the most lamentable sins of omission and commission have marked the conduct of Chinese affairs by both parties. The mutual compliments between the two Front Benches, which are now a regular feature of a Chinese debate, are far from reassuring. They are taken, I know, for statesmanship by many; but to me they are more like the winks which the Augurs of old exchanged when the populace were being victimised in some peculiarly flagrant way. The debate of last Thursday did good, in spite of the melancholy vaticinations of those gentlemen who, having no feasible policy of their own, hope to get credit for wisdom and moderation by denouncing those who have a policy and have the courage to avow it. The declaration which was elicited from the Under Secretary of State on Thursday was generally welcomed by this House and by public opinion. It was to a certain extent satisfactory, though deficient, as I shall proceed to show, in several vital points. It was satisfactory because it proved that Her Majesty's Government have at last decided frankly and fully to carry into effect the resolution of 1st March, 1898, which this House passed *nemine contradicente*, in favour of the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese Empire. The Government, by their mouthpiece, declared on Thursday in most unequivocal terms against the partition of China, and against any of those thinly-veiled attempts at partition which have passed under the name of spheres of influence, or spheres of interest, and which have misled some of my hon. friends. The debate on Thursday was also satisfactory, because it exposed that dangerous farce the Yang-tsze Valley Protectorate, which some have tried to substitute as an alternative policy to the independence of China, and as a feasible policy for this country to adopt. It is an impracticable policy, not merely because it means the partition of China, and would set all China against us, and also the United States, and probably the German Empire as well, but because it would involve the creation of a second India in Central China, with an enormous political and administrative organisation, and an immense army. Nor is this all. The Imperial genius and resource of the English race and the wealth and vigour of our Empire may be equal to the creation of a second India, but the Yang-tsze-Kiang valley has no strategical frontier. It could be easily attacked and overrun by the forces which Russia, after a few years of conquest, would accumulate by conscription in the northern provinces of China. I think that the debate of Thursday also gave the *coup de grâce* to that cuckoo cry of "the Concert of Europe" and that most delusive reliance upon a "Concert" that does not exist, that cannot exist, and that is a veritable misleader and chimera. This fictitious Concert only deceives ourselves, helps our enemies, paralyses our action, leaves British policy at the mercy of our foes, and presents them with a powerful lever for confounding British interests and promoting their own aims. I was vehemently attacked on Thursday for venturing to expose the hollowness and danger of this Concert, that does not exist, and the tremendous peril to British interests of basing our policy upon such a will-o'-the-wisp. Surely it is far better both for our policy, for our own success, for the credit of the Government, and for the peace of the world that our people should understand at once that the only hope of a successful issue in China is a clearly defined British policy, supported by the allies of England and by the friends of peace. Such a policy must be based on distinct objects and with a clear aim; and not upon a mere hopeless attempt to make our policy harmonise with foreign ambitions and schemes, which are at absolute variance with it. Such an attempt can only end in deplorable and fatal inaction on our part, or in placing our enemies in coigns of vantage from which they cannot be dislodged, or only with immense sacrifices. There is the greatest danger nowadays of our people falling victims to catch-penny and delusive phrases. This is the age of cheap fallacies, and the "Concert of Europe" is one of the most misleading. Another was used by the Member for Whitby in the course of his otherwise excellent speech on Thursday, and also by the Under Secretary of State. He said, amid cheers, that he would rather go half way with all the Powers than all the way alone. How absurd when tested by fact does this fetching phrase become. Would he rather go half way to Peking with all the Powers than all the way alone?

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I said I would rather go half way with all the

Powers than attempt at this moment to go the whole way alone.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: The right hon. Gentleman has not bettered his case by this explanation. Would he really rather go half way to Peking than all the way? Is it ever worth while to go half way anywhere? The statement is an absurd paradox. The action of Her Majesty's Government has been a series of very feeble attempts from the very first. So much for the satisfactory side of the Ministerial declaration. But there are features not reassuring. First, there is the military position. Although two months have passed since the crisis began, there seems still to be no general in command of the allied forces. The conditions of modern warfare render it most important that there should be a skilful commander-in-chief. The area of modern warfare is so large, the necessity of effective turning movements is so great, that a supreme head is most needful. The losses at Tientsin were far greater than necessary owing to the confusion of command. I hold that such a commander-in-chief should be an English general officer, because our position in China is greater and our interests far larger than any other Power's, and also because our soldiers at Tientsin are more numerous than those of any other European Power. There are special reasons also why British troops should not be placed under the command of other nationalities, whose ideas of warfare are very different to our own, and in a country where already most cruel and deplorable sacrifice of civilian life has been inflicted. I cannot believe that it would have been impossible to get the consent of the great majority of the Powers to an English commander-in-chief, had this been pressed soon enough and vigorously enough. I fear it will turn out that, just as the despatch of July 6th which led the Japanese to send an effective force ought to have been sent on the 8th June, so the question of commander-in-chief has been put off till too late for practical settlement in our favour. I trust that this will not have a disastrous effect upon the relief of the Legations. It may certainly have a very awkward effect when the allied forces are at Peking; and may lead to horrible scenes of slaughter and rapine. The tales of what took place at Tientsin are bad enough; but Peking, with its million of inhabitants exposed to the licence of five or six different armies, might easily offer scenes of horror that would be a disgrace to our so-called civilisation, and would consolidate Chinese resistance to Western progress and Christianity as nothing else could do. I am not a pseudo-humanitarian. I know what war means and what war must involve. But I am confident that while we must defeat and thoroughly smash Chinese armed resistance, and must punish in a striking way the leaders of this barbarous revolution and attack upon the European representatives in China, it will have a most beneficent effect upon the Chinese people and on behalf of Christian influence and repute if the peaceful and innocent non-combatant population of China are spared as much as possible. It will be easier to get to Peking than to get away from Peking. At this moment there seems to be a general attack made by Russian troops upon the northern boundary of China. In fact, a state of war has been created upon a large part of the Russo-Chinese frontier. One of the many difficulties before the allied troops at Peking will be to avoid being used as an irresistible lever for placing the whole of Northern China at the mercy of this separate Russian invasion from the north. There will be no satisfactory settlement of the present crisis, which strengthens the military position of Russia in Northern China. That must be a cardinal point in British policy. It would be better to at once occupy the whole Yang-tsze Kiang valley, with all its immense responsibilities, than to allow this crisis to end by Russia getting hold of Manchuria. Every square mile of Chinese territory brought under Russian control is so much territory taken away from British commerce and from the free commerce of the world. The aim of Russia is to keep China in disorder and decay, so as to facilitate its conquest when the right moment comes. The Boxer movement was encouraged so as to break up the splendid organisation, mainly British, which Sir Robert Hart's ability and industry have built up for the Chinese Customs during the past thirty years. Efforts have been made by Russia to get hold of all the northern railways, and now even of that between Ta-ku, Tientsin, and Peking. These malign encroachments can only be met and baffled by a clear and resolute British policy, supported as it would be, if distinctly and courageously put forward, by the irresistible influence of the United States, of Japan, and, I believe, also of Germany. The theory that Northern China is lost and must become Russian is a pusillanimous and disastrous theory. Northern China is not lost. It need not be lost if only this country will firmly maintain, with the support of its allies, the policy of Chinese integrity to which it is now pledged, and will also take effective measures to see that an honest and progressive Government is upheld in China. And here I come to the most serious defect in the Ministerial programme as I understood it. What China most needs is reform; what the Chinese most crave for is an honest administration. This very Boxer movement originated in the plaint of the dumb masses of China against the cruelties and exactions to which they are subjected by a corrupt and capricious ruling clique. Unless this crisis results in the reform of the Chinese Government, all the bloodshed, all the sacrifice of treasure and life will have been in vain. The result of the heroism of your Ministers, of the courage of your troops, of your vast expenditure, will be nil, or even worse than nothing, for they will but rivet more firmly the chains of servitude upon the four hundred millions of Chinese now groaning under misgovernment. In my opinion nothing could be more unfortunate than the statement of the hon. Baronet the Member for the Berwick Division of Northumberland. After saying that—

> "It is to our interest that the Government of China should be independent, strong, and better than it has been in the past,"

he went on to deal a fatal blow to those pious aspirations. The hon. Baronet added—

> "It is not our business, nor the business of other Powers, to attempt to set up that Government. It must be formed by the Chinese themselves."

Such a pitiful *laisser aller* policy as this must destroy all hope for the future of China. The hon. Baronet has got great credit by always sitting on the wall and coming down on one side when the course of the political current is clear. In this case opportunism is deadly. Of course, the Government must be Chinese; but what chance is there of a sound and honest Government being set up unless England and the Powers that sympathise with England give the Chinese a start, and a sure start, on the right path? It is not for me to attempt to lay down the exact manner in which influence should be used by Her Majesty's Government and other Powers. There are good men in China; there are honest and capable Chinese, and true patriots in China. But except by Western knowledge and support, how can this small leaven of upright and progressive Chinese ever get into power and remain in power? Abandon the internal affairs of China, as the hon. Baronet advises, and you will leave those 400 millions again to fall under the sway of the Tuans and the Chengs and the Li Ping Hengs, or the coterie of Palace eunuchs, who are said to have more influence than any Prince. If any good is to come out of this welter of revolution, massacre, and furious war, you must make it your business to see that a good Chinese Government is set up at Peking, and you must support it. You will have to send a strong Ambassador to China, one of the strongest men that your great Oriental service can provide, a man of experience and force of character. You will have to support him by a strong and determined and unwavering backing at Downing Street. The hon. Baronet would commit in China the same wretched and ruinous blunder which his party made after the Crimean War in Turkey. That sanguinary and costly struggle was undertaken by the Liberal party for great objects—the liberties of Europe. It was successful, and would have been a boon to the world, had the same party that caused and waged it not abnegated their duty towards Turkey, and thereby sacrificed all the results of the Crimean War. No effort was made by England after the Crimean War to keep Turkey in the path of progress, economy, and good government. The result we have seen in our own time, in widespread and almost unparalleled destruction of life and human agony. That may also happen in regard to China. You may relieve the Legations, put down revolution, and restore apparent order; but unless you follow this up by resolute pressure in order to maintain an honest Chinese Government in Peking all your efforts and sacrifices will be thrown away. I do not know whether the present Under Secretary of State meant to endorse the views of his predecessor or not. In one portion of his speech he made a very equivocal statement, which sounded like an echo from across the Table. But towards the end of his speech the right hon Gentleman made a reassuring utterance which I should rather wish to believe to be the real policy of Her Majesty's Government. He expressed a hope that the Powers of Europe will discover a foundation on which a tolerable Chinese Government may be built up. He pointed out how vital it was to this country, both from our splendid and increasing trade, from Sir Robert Hart's great Customs organisation, and from other British efforts, that a reformed Chinese administration should be the outcome of the present crisis. This, Sir, is the real problem; upon its solution the issue for good or for evil not only for China, but for British interests and for those of all truly civilised and peace-loving nations, depends. But this problem can only be solved by Her Majesty's Government taking a brave, clear, and sustained lead in the reform of China. It can only be successfully solved by Her Majesty's Government deliberately uniting around the lead of England the support of those Powers that are really wishful for the progress, the integrity, and the peaceful development of the Chinese people.

*MR. BRODRICK: Although we have had the advantage twice within seven days of hearing from my hon. friend a fairly full expression of his views with reference to the policy of Her Majesty's Government in China, I think the House would be almost disappointed if my hon. friend had not followed his invariable practice on the last day of the session of not allowing the Government to go away without having received a warning from him as to the dangers which the country might undergo during the time they would be exempt from his criticism. I fully recognise the right of my hon. friend, even within the interval of a few days, to develop afresh his opinions on the policy of the Government with regard to China which was announced a few days ago, but I must not be regarded as a consenting party on behalf of the Government to all the views which my hon. friend has expressed in the course of his speech. I know the interest he takes in the whole question, but when he claims to-day that the Government have come round to his views I will not grudge him his triumph—I believe he considers the whole session has been a triumph for him. I will not refer to the unsound principles we have deserted or to the sound principles he has instilled into us; I will not even go so far as to point out that almost in one and same sentence he upbraided us for not having arrived at a conclusion with foreign Powers, and informed us that the weakness of our position was that we were acting in concert with foreign Powers; but there is just this one thing I must say with regard to our policy, and that is that I wish it to be clearly understood that as my hon. friend claims us as converts to his way of thinking we are not to be bound by the interpretation which he has put on my speech. I believe the House and the country fully understand what the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to China is at the present moment, and I do not think it necessary to recapitulate what I have already said. I fully agree with my hon. friend that it will be most necessary to choose representatives in China who will represent Her Majesty's Government with firmness. At the present moment our opinion with regard to China is this—that the fewer words we use the easier it will be to make good the position we desire to take up. We are quite conscious that in matters of this kind we can neither be too closely bound nor should we be wise to lay down principles which at some future time it might be inconvenient to carry out. I can only say that we will follow with absolute firmness, perseverance, and determination with regard to British interests, both in the north of China and the Yang-tsze valley, so far as they are affected, the course which the House would desire to see us take. There was an advantage in the length of my hon. friend's speech, because during it I received two telegrams from China which the House will desire to hear. One is a telegram in cipher from Sir Claude MacDonald, handed in at Tsinan Yamen, 3.40 p.m. yesterday, and received at 7 o'clock this morning—

> "Peking, 3rd August.—I have to-day received your cipher telegram forwarded through Chinese Minister. Shell and cannon fire ceased 16th July, but rifle fire has continued from Chinese position, held by Chinese troops and 'Boxers,' intermittently ever since. Our casualties since then slight. The following British killed:—Warren, David Oliphant,

aptain Strouts, Privates Scalding and hillips, Royal Marines. Wounded—Twenty-x British, including Captains Wray and alliday, students Peachey and Townshend, nd *The Times* correspondent, Dr. Morrison. Vith exception of Private Sawyer, all wounded oing well. The rest of British in Legation oing well, including garrison. Total loss -killed, 60; wounded, 110. We have trengthened our fortifications, and have over 00 women and children refugees in Legation. hinese Government have refused us permis-ion to telegraph in cipher until now."

That telegram establishes the fact of the afety of Sir C. MacDonald. A further elegram, I am glad to say, gives some nformation as to the advance of the llies. It was received at the Admiralty rom the Admiral at Chifu, handed in at hifu, 6th August, 9.10, and received t the Admiralty at 7 o'clock a.m., 8th August—

"Allies, about 12,000, attacked Chinese ntrenched position at Hsiku, about two miles outside Teintsin, early this morning. Chinese driven out and retreated northwards pursued by allies, who occupied Peitsing. Transport followed troops by road and river. Advance on Peking begun."

These telegrams, I think, are, on the whole, satisfactory. Before I sit down I will say a few words in reference to the question raised by the hon. Member for Linlithgow. I was a little astonished that at practically the last moment of the session the hon. Member should choose his opportunity for bringing this "Kow-shing" case forward, seeing that he had not referred to it at any period during the whole session. The hon. Gentleman spoke of this case as a grave national scandal, and also said that the position shows the intense weakness of the Government. And he used a variety of other disparaging observations. The strong expressions used by the hon. Member are not justified by the facts. I stated perfectly clearly last year, and now repeat the statement, that the cause of delay was not want of firmness on the part of Her Majesty's Government. The fact is that the Chinese Government dispute the claim put forward, representing that, the ship being chartered by the Chinese Government and sunk by the Japanese before the actual declaration of war, the claim should be made against the Japanese and not the Chinese Government. Our Law Officers take a different view, holding that our claim is good against the Chinese Government. There is a difference of opinion which cannot be disposed of in the way the hon. Member suggests. It is not for Great Britain to dictate to China and to send up a fleet, as the hon. Member proposed, in a dispute involving a few thousand pounds. To do so would be to wantonly provoke an outbreak such as we now have to deplore. It would be absolutely impossible to carry on diplomatic intercourse with foreign Powers in such a manner that, when divergence of opinion arises which cannot be immediately reconciled, recourse should at once be had to hostile measures. I can only say, as I have said before, that no single case has been pending against the Chinese Government as to which we have not obtained a settlement sooner or later, and such a result will, I hope, be attained in this case, though naturally we may all object to Oriental procrastination. In this particular case, as hon. Members are aware, arbitration has already been agreed upon, and Mr. Choate, the United States Ambassador, a jurist of great repute and a man of absolute impartiality, has been suggested by the Chinese Government and has undertaken to act as arbitrator. There is still a difficulty as to the exact terms of reference, and this difficulty it is impossible for the Government to resolve under present conditions, the Chinese Minister having referred the question to Peking. The hon. Member has asked whether an advance of money could not be made to the claimant for damages as in the Waima case, but that does not appear to me a reasonable proposal. In the Waima case, certain officers and soldiers died in the discharge of their duty, being fired upon unexpectedly—quite a different case to that where people put their money into a commercial venture, carrying troops for a foreign Government when war was on the point of breaking out. I anticipate that in this, as in all other cases, the Government will, sooner or later, see full justice done,

MR. URE: Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to state whether the Chinese Government have disputed their liability, and what are the specific grounds on which they deny their responsibility?

*MR. BRODRICK: They have disputed liability all along.

MR. URE: What are the specific grounds on which the Chinese dispute that their troops took forcible command of a British ship at a supreme moment?

*Mr. BRODRICK: I cannot go into details. It is extremely undesirable to discuss in this House the details of a question to be submitted to arbitration.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): The hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division said that the proceedings of this House had now degenerated into an interchange of views between the two Front Benches. As my two hon. friends below me do not seem to be about to take advantage of their opportunities, I wish to call attention to another matter. A new rule has been laid down that the South African letters are not a matter which should be brought forward in this House on a point of privilege, or a point of order. I wish to bring it forward to-day entirely as a point of honour. Now, what has happened? The right hon. the Colonial Secretary on Friday last declared that he had in his possession copies of some letters which were not proper letters to be written by British subjects, and that these letters were written by Members of this House. I say that, under these circumstances, it is really incumbent upon the right hon. Gentleman, in the interests of this House, in the interests of the country, and in the interest of himself, to produce these letters with the names of the writers without any more delay. If he will not do that, it is not playing fair with us. Here we are, a lot of suspected men. I have even heard my own name mentioned in the Lobby as being suspected of having written a letter to a Boer. I say that it is most unfair to withhold this information, because we are going to a General Election very shortly. I am told that elections are conducted in all sorts of ways. I would be quite willing to condone any sort of dexterity in the matter, but I do think that this last manœuvre of the right hon. Gentleman is playing it a little too low; to use a phrase of the day, I should say it is rather "slim." For what will happen? If nothing more is stated about these letters, every man on the Liberal side will go to his constituents in an atmosphere of suspicion, insinuation, and innuendo. That is not proper. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman, on this, the last occasion on which we meet, to take the manly line, and let the House know all about the letters. Then we can part in peace, feeling that when we do go into fight a few months hence we will do it in a straightforward, honourable manner.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said it was not often that he agreed with the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division, but the debate on the Appropriation Bill had been reduced to the condition in which nearly all the debates this session had been reduced. Prominent Members were always called upon, and were sure of an opportunity to address the House, while ordinary Members were practically excluded from taking any part in the discussions, and as soon as a few prominent men had spoken the closure was moved. In his view the closure was never intended to interfere with the right of debate on the part of any Member, however humble he might be, but was only meant to put down obstruction. He desired to draw the attention of the Under Secretary for War to a matter of some importance to Volunteer officers. Complaints had been made to him with reference to the Royal Military Academy. Officers of the Regular Army were permitted to send their sons to that Academy at reduced rates, while the sons of Volunteer officers, of however long standing, were obliged to pay £150 a year for the admission of each of their sons. He wanted to know how that was. It seemed to him that it was part of a regular plan, he did not say followed by the Government, but by the War Office, of discountenancing the Volunteer movement in every possible way, and dissociating it as much as possible from any privileges granted to the Regular Army, and putting the Volunteers in a sort of inferior status. Having regard to the large expenditure of the Volunteer officers, they ought to be put upon a par with their brothers in the Army in this matter. The difficulty with regard to the Volunteer movement was the difficulty of getting officers, who would not come forward because of the enormous expense to which they were put. Did not that give them as great a claim as that of the officers in the Army to have their sons admitted into the military college at a reduced fee, especially having regard to the fact that the war in South Africa had shown that for the purposes of offence and aggression the Volunteers had proved themselves not unworthy to stand and fight beside the picked military forces of this country? He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that the officers of Volunteers would be treated in this matter upon terms of perfect equality with officers of the Regular Army. He felt constrained whilst addressing the House to make some reference to the war in the Transvaal, and the point to which he desired to draw attention was one which had received too little attention in the House. It was an undisputed fact that martial law was an illegal law, only justified by the extremest necessity to protect Her Majesty's subjects in the district where that martial law was administered. There was no justification for resorting to it when the ordinary courts were open. The result of putting martial law into force in the Transvaal had been that men suspected merely of having had commercial dealings with the enemy, when the enemy was in the colony, had been arrested and kept in prison for weeks and months without bail. In some cases the ordinary law of the country intervened, and writs of *habeas corpus* had been issued, with the result that the military authorities, not venturing to defend their proceedings, had liberated the prisoners, and when those persons had returned to their own homes they had been again arrested. Many persons were also aware that the administration of this martial law had been entrusted to colonials from districts for which they had been elected, and the result had been that these colonial politicians had abused the authority they possessed by arresting their political opponents. Such a proceeding was unheard of in a civilised country, and one which one would have supposed could not have taken place outside Turkey. It was a scandal that ought to be brought to the attention of the Government. We had a right to distrust the colonials of South Africa. It was because of the lying assurances of these people that we had been dragged into this hideous war. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] It was indubitably true. He alluded to the colonial financial gang in South Africa. A telegram to the hon. Member for Rochester had appeared recently in an evening paper, which said that every assurance which had been given to the Government by those men before the war had been false. We were told by the leader of the gang that the Transvaal army was the greatest unpricked bubble in the world. Did the Government believe that now?

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT asked whether the hon. Gentleman would quote the telegram.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said he had not it in his possession, but he had seen it in an English newspaper. One of the assurances these people gave was that the Boer army could not keep the field for a fortnight, that they could not feed themselves, and would vanish away in about a month. Those statements were persisted in to the last. The last lie that was told was that in order to keep up the fighting spirits of the burghers the President had to resort to all sorts of lies; but, when General Prinsloo surrendered, 3,000 or 4,000 of his burghers declined to obey him and lay down their arms, and went away prepared to go on fighting. When should we listen to common sense in this matter? The men in the Transvaal who had given their blood and laid down their lives—and their wives and children also laid down their lives in many cases—knew something about their own business. Was it to be supposed that they did not know for what they were fighting? If there was anything that would raise a suspicion in an ordinary human mind it would be the idea that the President was making use of them for his own purposes; and if that had been true the burghers would have discovered it long before the people of this country. The men who were fighting were men who lived upon the veldt, and the only human motive which could induce them to make the sacrifices they had made was to preserve their independence or the independence of their country. We were fighting to take away that independence, we were not fighting for honour. Honour called upon us to desist from this fighting. Honour called upon this country to abide by its promises, its treaties, and declarations. When the Colonial Secretary was pleading with President Kruger for the lives of the Jameson raiders, Mr. Fairfield wrote at his instigation or under his direction to the Chartered Company calling attention to our treaties with the Transvaal. The right hon. Gentleman assured the President that he would perform all the obligations of the Convention of 1884. It was a solemn promise, solemnly made, and he had broken it in a manner which brought disgrace upon this country. The war was carried on for the basest motives that could actuate politicians—greed and aggrandisement. Immediately after the war began, the Prime Minister stated that we sought no territory, that we sought no goldfields; but now, under the malign influence that had led the present Government into all the difficulties and iniquities which, in his opinion, had been perpetrated, the Prime Minister had been forced practically to abandon that attitude. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fifeshire had publicly stated that no single reasonable politician in this country was in favour of annexation, and that if anyone connived at it in any shape or form he would thereby give colour a hundredfold to the charges of insincerity and Pharisaism levelled at this country by the Continental press. The right hon. Gentleman had been extremely silent during the session. He appeared, while sitting on the Front Bench, to be in a brown study. He did not know the subject of the right hon. Gentleman's meditation, but he rather suspected he was thinking how he could best get out of the declaration he had made. He hoped that was not so; but he held that when a responsible politician on either side of the House made such a solemn declaration as that he ought to stand to it. He trusted that his right hon. friend would stand to it, whatever pressure might be put upon him, and that he would denounce this aggression and annexation. This matter, as had been truly said, had brought disgrace and discredit on the country more than anything had ever done. This country occupied a position as bad as any ever occupied by Russia in its treatment of Poland, or by Austria in its treatment of Hungary.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne) said he became aware last year of a great abuse and gross injustice, and he did his best, by means of questions addressed to his right hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury, to draw public attention to the subject. He referred to the abuse existing in certain divisions of the High Court in connection with the retirement, or rather the non-retirement of the clerks in these courts. The Ridley Commission reported on the subject some years ago, and an Order in Council was issued laying down rules which provided that clerks should retire at the age of sixty-five, except in special cases where the services of individuals were further required. It appeared from an answer given to a question which he put to his right hon. friend that the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and the late Master of the Rolls held that the rules with respect to the retirement of clerks, which were applicable to every office under the Crown, did not apply and should not apply to the clerks of the High Court. Last year he had personally to go to the Probate Court to prove the will of a relative, and there he saw some elderly men. He asked how it was that they were there, and what salary they received. One of them told him he was ashamed to say that he was receiving £200 a year, after occupying the same position for twenty-two years. His right hon. friend when questioned on the subject told him that the Lord Chancellor was unable to obtain the assent of all the judges to the adoption of the Report of the Commission. That seemed to imply that the Lord Chancellor was in favour of the adoption of the rules. He put another question to his right hon. friend as to whether there were any statutory difficulties in the way of these judges adopting the rules with respect to the High Court. The reply was that the legal authorities were in disagreement on the subject. His questions led Sir Francis Jeune to ask what the grievance was, and he wrote fully to that distinguished judge, who, after inquiring into the matter, applied the rules to the clerks in his department. Why did not the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice see that these rules were applied in the other divisions of the High Court? From a Return showing the number of clerks still serving beyond the age of sixty-five because the judges would not allow them to have the benefit of the retirement scheme of the Ridley Commission, he found that there were twenty-five. There were in all fifty-nine who would probably come within the rules. One gentleman was seventy-five, another seventy-two, two were seventy-one, one was seventy, three were sixty-nine, five were sixty-eight, five were sixty-seven, two were sixty-six, and five were sixty-five. By continuing these clerks in the service of the Crown, the zeal of the clerks below them was being killed, because promotion was blocked. This matter did not concern him individually. It only concerned him as a lover of justice. This was a grievance that ought to be remedied, and it should not be in the power of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice to ignore the recommendations of the Ridley Commission and the rules approved by the Government.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said this was the last opportunity there could be this session of complaining in this House that documents which had been referred to by a right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench, which had been exploited for party purposes, and to which that right hon. Gentleman gave his own version—documents connected with the honour of Members of this House—had not been produced for the consideration of the House. It was the absolute duty of the Colonial Secretary, or of the Cabinet, if they had these documents, to produce them to Parliament, and not to keep them in hand as an electioneering manœuvre—not to allow Members of the present Parliament to suffer from sinister rumours, but to have the matter cleared up at once. He belonged to a party which had suffered from letters and documents. They all recollected the Pigott transaction. He wanted to protect his hon. friends on that side from a bastard Pigott campaign in khaki. He would address himself to the First Lord of the Treasury, in the absence of the Colonial Secretary. Although they had always been opposed to each other, he ventured to assert that, outside his own personal friends, there was no one in this House who had a greater admiration for the right hon. Gentleman than he had. He appealed to him as a gentleman of honour not to permit a campaign of slander and calumny to be launched against Members of this House—not to permit members of the Treasury Bench to promote such a campaign, involving inferences as to these letters and their authors for party purposes. This House ought to vindicate the honour of its Members. It should insist upon the documents being produced, and thus put an end to all sinister rumours. He ventured to say that if the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary would permit him to give an answer about these incriminating documents, he would give the right hon. Gentleman one he would never forget. The right hon. Gentleman was now conspicuous by his absence, but he had stated that he would communicate with the incriminated Members. He was constituting himself the guardian of the honour of Members of this House. He had innumerable Under Secretaries, like Daniel the Prophet, and he had put on his considering cap. He only communicated with the hon. Members on Monday evening. Was it not clear from that that he did not want to get an answer before Parliament was prorogued? Why was he so careful about not producing these letters? He (Mr. McNeill) was certain that if there had been anything really disparaging politically in them, he would have produced them post haste. He was treating these hon. Members as disgracefully as he treated the House in regard to the Hawksley-Rhodes and the Hawksley-Chamberlain correspondence, copies of which he still had in the Colonial Office. It was true that he swore before the Committee that he did not keep copies of the letters. He was a man of honour—he was an expert in honour——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must not use an expression of that sort. He must not indulge in offensive personal recrimination.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: What did I say, Sir?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member said sarcastically that the right hon. Gentleman was an expert in honour. He must know that such an expression practically accuses him of dishonour.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Perhaps I was wrong in saying that. But I had in mind at the time the observation of the right hon. Gentleman that Mr. Rhodes was a man whose honour was untarnished. I think, therefore, there was some excuse for my observation. Continuing, the hon. Member said he wished to draw attention to the case of our dying soldiers in the South African hospitals. He had to make one observation about that, and he intended to make it, whether or not it gave offence to the First Lord of the Treasury. He was as certain as he was of his own existence that the lives and health of these men had been cruelly and absolutely disregarded, for political, personal, and strategical purposes.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! If the hon. Member means that, as I gather he does, as a reflection upon Ministers sitting on the Front Bench, he is not entitled to use such language.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I never mentioned such a thing, and I never referred to such a thing. I am afraid I am singularly unfortunate if you misconstrue me in such a way as that. I did not refer to them. If you wish me to name the person to whom I did refer, I am prepared to do so.

*MR. SPEAKER: I entirely accept the hon. Member's disclaimer.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he was not referring to the gentlemen on the Front Bench. He could only conclude that they knew nothing about the events with which he was dealing. But, on the other hand, they ought to have known. They ought to have been aware that in the management of the hospitals in South Africa there had been criminal negligence. On that point he had some testimony to lay before the House. The Archbishop of Cape Town, writing in a paper under the control of Mr. Rhodes, of the date 27th June, declared that there was great dissatisfaction at the way in which our sick and wounded were treated at several of the hospitals. He had had complaints from personal friends of the strong feeling which existed. Warm clothing was greatly needed, and, somehow or other, although it had been sent out, it was being withheld—either the doctors said it was not required, or they could not get it. Thus the blankets provided by charitable societies had never reached the troops at all. The Archbishop was speaking of the hospitals in his own diocese, and he said there had been great and horrible mismanagement. There was another witness—Mr. Michael Davitt—who had been travelling in the Transvaal. He had stated, in an interview with a correspondent, that he was convinced from what he learnt when he was in the neighbourhood of Bloemfontein that the hon. Member for Westminster had understated his case, and that the condition of the sick and wounded at that place when Lord Roberts entered was most distressing. He had heard Boers say that the Tommies were treated, or rather were neglected, as if they were Kaffirs. He went on to say that nothing could be better than the prompt attention given to the sick and wounded Tommies who happened to fall into the hands of the Boers. He visited several Boer hospitals, and never heard a single complaint as to the treatment of the patients. Great as had been the amount of sickness, there was no doubt that much more would occur, seeing how both air and water were polluted by the carcases of the thousands of animals that had been killed and were left unburied. He (Mr. MacNeill) was himself a sufferer from these causes. Two of his relatives had already succumbed to disease, and he wished to express his belief that there had been gross mismanagement on the part of the hospital administrative department. He had before this given expression to his personal feelings, and he must say he was disappointed at the manner in which the First Lord of the Treasury had received the representations as to the miserable, horrible, and ill-ventilated hospitals, with every accompaniment of human misery. He ought to have been rejoiced at receiving the information, instead of being angry with the hon. Member, who practically took his political life in his hands, who put politics altogether out of the matter, and who came forward with his disclosures solely in the interests of humanity. Although he believed he would be in order in doing so, he did not propose to-day to question the constitution of the Hospital Commission. But he would like to say that it ought to have been empowered to take the evidence of ordinary paid assistants, and that the reasons given for not granting it that power were both flimsy and invalid. The reference to the Commission which had been appointed was such that it was bound to be used for "whitewashing" purposes. This ought not to be. He hoped the cries of the sufferers in South Africa would be heard throughout the length and breadth of the land, and that the War Office administration, which had been shown to be so flagrantly guilty in these matters, would be emphatically condemned by an outraged public opinion. He desired to say a word with reference to the Under Secretary of State for War. There was no Minister in the House who gave so complete, generous, and satisfactory answers as the hon. Gentleman—when he did not understand the effect of those answers. A few days ago, in reply to a question, he said there were 385 civil medical officers, as distinct from the Army Medical Department, who had been sent to the hospitals in South Africa. A day or two afterwards the hon. Gentleman was asked how many of the Army Medical Reserve, consisting of gentlemen who had retired after twenty or twenty-five years service, had been employed, and the answer was that out of ninety-eight only four had been sent to South Africa. An Army medical man with twenty years experience would have been able to dictate to the officers and say how many ambulances and other appliances should go up. But the War Office did not want such men of experience; they wanted men who could be coerced by the military commanders. Everyone knew his opinion of the war. He regarded it as one of the blackest and foulest transactions in the history of mankind. The Irish regiments, especially the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the Irish Rifles, had been shamefully treated. The Fusiliers left Queenstown on 3rd November, 1,135 strong; on the last day at Colenso they numbered only twenty-six men and three officers all told. They were deliberately placed in the forefront of the battle during the whole of the Natal campaign, though they did not complain of that until they were practically extinguished, and yet not a single kindly observation of their action ever appeared in a despatch or paper; the news was left to dribble out through private letters. When the regiment lost its officers, where did the promotion come in? The major who had fought in the engagements was passed over, and Englishmen who had seen nothing of the war were brought in from other regiments by the action of a set of distinguished gentlemen known as the Board of Promotion, sitting in a back parlour of the War Office, while the men who shed their blood in England's battles were cheated out of their just and honourable promotion. The same course of action had been pursued with regard to the Irish Rifles. Then there was a matter in regard to which he wished to defend himself. The hon. Member for Forfar the previous day asked when the despatches subsequent to Stormberg would be published. He wished to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he would guarantee that when these despatches were published they would not be sub-edited at the War Office for public consumption. Sir Redvers Buller had stated that he did not like the idea of rewriting a despatch for publication, and that he would rather leave it in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. He should not have asked this question but for Sir Redvers Buller's refusal to write a despatch for public consumption. Again and again he had asked for the publication of those despatches, which were being kept back because they affected illustrious men. Something was being kept back from the public, which if they knew would alter their opinion of the Government and their conduct of the war. The most shocking case was the Magersfontein disaster, in which battle the Scotch brigade were actually destroyed and ruined. Lord Methuen was in command there. The whole of the northern campaign—which resulted in the battles of Graspan, Belmont, Modder River, and Magersfontein—was a campaign solely prompted by a desire to save Mr. Rhodes. Therefore every drop of blood that was shed in those battles was shed simply to preserve one man. If they thought this one man was worth sacrificing 3,000 lives and 9,000 wounded men, he did not envy their opinion. In regard to Spion Kop, he had received a telegram from a distinguished gentleman who had been in command of the Seaforth Highlanders, and he said that he considered his regiment had been destroyed by mismanagement. There was another aspect of this case which had not been brought under public notice at all, although he had endeavoured to do so by means of questions. He believed that some of our officers had been guilty of gross cruelty to their men. He had seen a letter from a correspondent drawing a very horrible picture as to how their soldiers were punished in the field. He had read that, for some offences committed in the field, soldiers had been tied securely to posts, and left in the sun for two or three hours, according to the sentence. This accusation appeared in the *Daily Graphic* of the 23rd of June, 1900. Surely there must be something behind this, when a statement appears in a highly respectable English paper that English soldiers had been crucified under the African sun. Those were the kind of things which were going on and which were being kept from them by an atrocious system of unworthy concealment. He wished to say a few words in regard to the press censorship, which was one of the most atrocious systems he had ever heard of. The press censorship in South Africa had been managed for political purposes. Of course, statesmen of the first class would not speak on the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill, but perhaps as the shadow of the General Election was falling on the Treasury Bench, the House might receive words of wisdom from the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary. He wished to make an allegation, and he would repeat it at any public meeting at which South Africa was referred to. It was that industrious men who had gone out from the Cornish mines and were making £3, £4, and £5 a week at the Johannesburg mines, were put out bag and baggage when the war began. When they wished to return to Johannesburg the greatest consternation was shown at the Government House, Cape Town, and at the Colonial Office, and warning telegrams were issued telling them not to come back. These Englishmen were sent away from Johannesburg in order that the German Jews and other capitalists might employ Kaffir labour. That was one of the pecuniary advantages of a just, righteous, and necessary war! At a meeting of the Consolidated Goldfields it was stated how much cheaper it would be to employ Kaffir labour. That was to be a result of the war, which was undertaken for the franchise, and he trusted English working men would understand that. No one could accuse him of speaking for an electioneering purpose. He did not think there were ten Liberal Imperialists among his constituents—they were wise men—but he would not take any honour or any wealth to be for five minutes under the responsibility for the war, which he believed attached to the Colonial Secretary. Some things might be in doubt, but he was certain that if anyone else had been at the Colonial Office except the right hon. Gentleman there would have been no war. He was as certain of that as he was of his own existence. It had given him many painful and miserable nights when he remembered that if Parliament had been called together one week earlier last October there would have been no war. Sir Edward Clarke's speech would have affected public opinion, the whole conspiracy would have been disclosed, and the country would not have been forced into war. The irritating speeches from members of the Cabinet followed, and Sir Alfred Milner acted as if he were the subservient tool of the capitalists. He did not accuse the English people of the war. He did not accuse the Cabinet, he did not even accuse the Colonial Secretary of it, but the right hon. Gentleman was gravely responsible for it. He was perfectly certain that if the right hon. Gentleman had had the slightest idea of what the results of the war would be he would never have entered on it. The right hon. Gentleman did not know what he was doing. Personally, he (Mr. MacNeill) was thankful that he was only a foreigner in the House, and had nothing to do with the war. The most warlike did not think that 500 lives would be lost, but there had been sent back from South Africa more wounded and crippled men than the whole Boer army. That was a horrible story. He did not count the cost of the war in money, but 60,000 human beings had been sacrificed who, but for the war, would be in full health and strength to-day. There was a terrible expression in the Hebrew prophets about fathers giving up their sons and daughters to devils, but these men were sacrificed—their hands were imbued in the blood of the Boers—because of the abominable lust for gold. The Boer train of thought did not appeal to him very much, but the Boers were a magnificent race, absolutely above all considerations of pelf. They liked to lead pastoral lives, and, if their ideas were in some respects rustic and uncouth, they had magnificent traits of character. The First Lord of the Treasury used an expression which was unworthy of him in the great speech he delivered at Manchester. He said he could not understand the inconceivable folly of the Orange Free State joining in the war, as in any result they could not have been a penny the better off. But they did not consider pence; they considered the claims of blood and kindred, and the freedom for which their forefathers fought, and for which they were willing to be sacrificed, and if they had not achieved success they certainly deserved it. They had proved themselves to be the worthy descendants of men who went into the forest twice to avoid the British lust for gold. They were great men, glorious men, who were prepared to give up their lives for an ideal. It was thought that because they knew they would be beaten they would resign themselves to the inevitable, but they were actuated by considerations infinitely superior to such selfish motives. They recognised that it was better to be beaten than to relinquish their independence. He was sorry for the war. He came of a military stock himself, and he was sorry because of many dear ones who were engaged in the war, but he was more sorry because the war was a degradation of common humanity, and an offence against the great God and His Son whom all should love.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I do not think the House will expect or desire that I should reply at any length to the discursive speech to which we have just listened. It was of course, to be expected that on the last day of the session the hon. Member for South Donegal would add one more to those numerous speeches which he has made during the session, in which he has spoken so much and said so little. It was also naturally to be expected that that speech would contain an attack upon the Colonial Secretary. I find it very difficult to treat the hon. Gentleman very seriously. He poses in this House as the avowed enemy of this country, and he and his friends declare themselves to be foreigners and opposed to our policy. They are the people who cheered the Mahdi and who cheered some other savage chiefs with whom we were at war, and who now approve the action of the Boers. It does not matter what the war is or what the cause is, provided Great Britain is engaged, these hon. Gentlemen profess to side with our opponents. But I think probably I might take the hon. Member seriously if I thought he meant all he said. He is accustomed to rhetorical flights, and I attribute what would be very offensive in anybody else to a rather emotional and excitable nature. Take the speech to which we have just listened. Again and again he stated that he did not intend to throw any accusations across the floor of the House, or attack any class or party. But his speech was from beginning to end a series of most extravagant imputations upon everybody with whom he professes to have a quarrel. He declared that the wilful and deliberate negligence of the whole medical service in South Africa had been the cause of the deaths of our soldiers. He then came down to the Government, and said valuable lives had been sacrificed for political purposes. Is that an imputation? He went on to accuse Lord Lansdowne of political and discreditable motives because he had done what, I think, any person of common sense would think a very natural and courteous thing to do—namely, to give Sir Redvers Buller an opportunity of saying whether or not he wished to revise a despatch which he did not know was intended for publication. Then the hon. Gentleman went on to fall foul of Lord Kitchener and other officers. He appears to be a military expert. He holds himself justified in criticising the operations of the officers in the field and the conduct of our generals. He attacks the officers with charges of cruelty which he has discovered in some sensational paragraph in a newspaper.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I made no attack upon the officers. I said that is a matter which should be considered. I said that the working officers are above suspicion.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The working officers are above imputation, and yet they crucify their men on the field! That proves what I am saying, that the hon. Gentleman is really not aware of the force of his language. He does not know how very fierce his invective is when he gives us a dramatic performance, but it may affect some people outside who do not know him as well as we do. They believe that he is quite in earnest. Then he comes home and attacks the Board of Promotion, and assumes that every member of this Board is animated with a fiendish sentiment which leads them to promote the wrong people, and especially not to promote the friends of the hon Member. Finally he falls foul of the Colonial Secretary, and accuses him of most improper conduct in refraining from the publication of certain letters, and attributes to him some terrible motives in connection with them. I wonder amongst whom, in what society, the life of the hon. Gentleman is ordinarily passed? Where does he get these low ideas of humanity? Where has he conceived that any person with whom he has the slightest acquaintance in public life could be capable of these improprieties? Really, however, the very extravagance of the hon. Gentleman is his best answer. The hon. Baronet the Member for Cockermouth asked me for an assurance that certain letters, or alleged letters, to which reference has been made, shall be published as soon as possible, and he gave as his reason for that that he and others were under suspicion. It seems to me a strange thing that the hon. Baronet should complain of being under suspicion, because in the same short speech he suspected me of the most improper motives, and he suggested that somehow or other the time had been carefully devised, and that I was going to hold them back for some mean or improper purpose of my own. But the hon. Baronet has only to go down to his constituents or say in this House that he has not written any letters or done anything objectionable of the kind, and we shall all believe him. Every innocent person is in precisely the same position. I do not think there is this cloud of suspicion resting on the House generally, and I doubt very much whether the hon. Members for whom the hon. Baronet professed to speak will be grateful to him for what he has done. What we have done will commend itself to the general sense of the House. We have come into possession of certain letters the effect of which I do not wish to exaggerate. I expressed my own personal opinion that they are not proper letters to have been written, but beyond that I do not go. They may be forgeries for aught we know. Such things have happened before.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: And have been utilised before.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If they are not forgeries, they may be open to full and satisfactory explanation. We thought the proper course, therefore, was to send them to the persons who were reputed or alleged to have written them, and to wait for their reply. Something was said about the time at which the matter was referred to. Well, we cannot govern the time at which a matter of this kind becomes public property; but as we only received this correspondence from Bloemfontein a very few days ago—the first part only about a fortnight ago—and as we were told there was more to come, my own idea was that we should wait until we had the whole of the alleged correspondence in our hands before coming to any conclusion. But as the matter became to a certain extent public property, and questions were asked about it, I felt it was desirable and fair that those who were at the present moment concerned should immediately have the opportunity of making any observations they chose to make regarding this alleged correspondence; and having regard to all the contingencies to which the hon. Baronet referred, I think the whole matter should be decided one way or other at the earliest possible moment. But I decline at the present moment to go beyond what I have already said, and that is that as soon as we can get the replies we will come to an immediate decision as to whether the correspondence should be published or not.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): The only thing which hon. Members on this side of the House who have taken part in the debate have done is to appeal to the sense of fair play in the House. I deprecate the conduct of the right hon. the Colonial Secretary in regard to these South African letters. He says he has received a certain number of private letters written by Members of this House before the war to some man in Bloemfontein. The right hon. Gentleman might have said, "I cannot publish these letters until I have afforded the opportunity to these gentlemen to explain them." That is not the course, however, which the right hon. Gentleman has taken—a perfectly proper course, which would recommend itself to any gentleman in this House. But what does he do? He says, "I do not know whether these letters were written by the gentlemen to whom they are ascribed; they may be forgeries"; but at the same time he says that he will not publish them until he finds from the gentlemen whether they are forgeries or not, and then he quotes the very worst phrases out of them——

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That is the hon. Gentleman's interpretation.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: This is rather important, as it affects the honour of Members of this House, especially these words. This is what the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Two of them were dated just before the outbreak of the war; the other is a request, couched in a form which is certainly open to criticism, for information respecting the administration of martial law."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: He gives the pith of the letter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes; and he gives the pith and purport of another letter. Here it is—

> "The most interesting feature of the South African correspondence is the general admission of substantial grievances, and of the necessity of reform. There are, however, some suggestions that President Kruger might make temporary concessions, and wait for a reaction in this country."

It would have been much fairer if the right hon. Gentleman had quoted the actual words used. If giving the actual words used would have been more damaging to the reputation of hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House, I venture to say the right hon. Gentleman would have done it.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman misunderstands what I said. The purport of these letters had been very greatly exaggerated, and I wished to give the proper effect of the letters. There is another point on which I wish to correct the hon. Member. The letters to which he has now referred, and which showed the existence of real grievances, are not the letters that are attributed to Members of this House, but are letters written in South Africa by British subjects there.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Was the letter making "some suggestions that President Kruger might make temporary concessions, and wait for a reaction in this country" written in South Africa? The right hon. Gentleman admits that he gave the purport of the letters, and that is what I complain of. The right hon. Gentleman now explains, "Oh, I did it in order to remove the very exaggerated impressions which prevailed as to what the letters contain." How did these letters, or the purport of them, come out? Real news is censored, and so are the despatches of generals giving the facts; but the moment that any sort of letter which implicates any particular person is discovered, it is not given in its true form, but in what the right hon. Gentleman himself calls an exaggerated form, to the public. If it has been exaggerated who did the exaggeration? It must have been exaggerated by someone in the Colonial Office. [AN HON. MEMBER: No!] I am well within the facts, and why should the hon. Member interrupt me when I am stating the facts? These letters are in the Colonial Office, and have got into the hands of the press. And what has been the result? Every day since Friday last there have been charges of treason, by the friends of the right hon. Gentleman in the press, against hon. Members of this House. Why should the right hon. Gentleman be surprised that hon. Members of this House complain of being under suspicion of being guilty of a capital charge? The hon. Member went on to complain that papers which exaggerated grievances and created fictitious tales of horror about the treatment of refugees and others, which were proved to be absolutely untrue, were now circulating, upon the basis of the replies of the right hon. Gentleman himself, charges of treason wholesale. He saw that one paper of to-day's date called upon the Government to publish the treasonable correspondence; yet the right hon. Gentleman complained because hon. Members came down on the last day of the session and demanded that these letters should be published, and complained of their not having been published before. The right hon. Gentleman said he had had these letters for a fortnight, but did not communicate with the hon. Members because there might have been other letters, and he wished to have the whole of them. On the previous Friday he did communicate with the hon. Members. [Cries from the Government Benches: "Who are they?"] Did not hon. Gentlemen know? Why did they not ask the right hon. Gentleman? He was making the same request himself; it was no use asking him. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that some of the hon. Members were here at that time, but they had since gone away with the majority of the Members of the House, and he took very good care to communicate with them at a time when no reply could possibly be given before the rising of the House. The right hon. Gentleman knew that if replies could have been received several questions might have arisen. He would probably have been asked why that interpretation had been placed upon these letters, and why certain passages had been withheld. Only what could possibly prejudice the public mind unfairly had been published, and that had been done, he ventured to say, in a way which could not and would not have been done by any other hon. Member of the House. The letters were sent out on the Monday, and the House was to disperse on this Wednesday, and there had been no opportunity to discuss this matter. It was not so easy for a minority in this House to stand up against a war in which this country was engaged, although perhaps the present was the largest minority which had ever opposed a war, and he did not think it was an upright thing to place greater difficulties in the way of the minority than they had to face. It was not a courageous thing on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to attack a small minority in the way in which he had done, and he would not have tried to do it if the minority had been a powerful one. He had taken advantage of the letters to put difficulties in their way in a manner which no courageous statesman would have adopted; they were entitled to a little indulgence and fair play, seeing that the minority was so small. At the present moment the right hon. Gentleman had achieved his purpose, which was that all those who opposed this war should be sent to their constituencies with the suspicion that they had been guilty of treasonable correspondence with the enemy. All the correspondence ought to be published, and not selected passages.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There were a great many more letters than I was aware of.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: It was now admitted by the right hon. Gentleman that there were other letters. He had simply quoted from the right hon. Gentleman's reply. There was one other matter to which he wished to refer—the Report of the War Office Contracts Committee. There had been a great deal said about dynamite scandals in a country 6,000 miles away; he wished to know what the Government proposed to do with regard to certain dynamite scandals rather nearer home. The facts as set out in the exceedingly diluted and restricted Report were sufficiently serious, and showed that there were favoured firms in this country. Tenders having been invited, a certain firm which had sent in the highest tender was told that if they reduced their tender a large order would be given to them. Such a thing had never been done by any monopoly; if it had, the inquiry would have been much more searching, and something would have been done to prevent such a thing taking place in the future. This new firm had been practically made by the War Office. [A Voice: It has been in existence for twenty years.] Nominally, no doubt, it had been in existence for twenty years, but everybody was aware that until certain gentlemen in Birmingham, who had influence with a member of the Government, could say, "If your contracts are too high we can give you another chance," the firm was not known. That firm was made by the War Office. Whatever party in the country suffered by the war, one party in the country was doing well out of it. It was perfectly clear from the evidence before the Committee that an unfair advantage had been given to this firm, and equally clear that some of the officials at the Admiralty felt that there was something that was not right, because they remonstrated with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who, he believed, had he been able, would have brought the matter to an end long ago. The House was entitled to ask the War Office whether they intended to carry out ruthlessly the recommendations of the Committee in all respects, because they were proceeding by innuendo in these matters.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Hear, hear! By innuendo.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: They were taking a lead from the right hon. Gentleman, who insinuated treason, insinuated impropriety of language, and, above all, who insinuated that he treated hon. Members in a gentlemanly manner by offering them an opportunity of which they could not avail themselves. They were, therefore, entitled to know whether the recommendations of the Committee would be carried out in all respects, because, when the Government was so anxious to redress grievances in and purify the administration of the Transvaal, it was desirable that they should also endeavour to do the same at home.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The innuendo of the hon. Member is perfectly well understood by the House, and it will, perhaps, justify me in asking the House to allow me to say one or two words in reply. The Report of the Committee I have not seen, nor have I seen the report of the examination of the witnesses. I therefore cannot answer anything the hon. Gentleman has said with reference to what went on before that Committee; but the innuendo is of course that the Colonial Secretary was in some way or another——

AN HON. MEMBER: Your brother.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In some way or another connected with this matter. Now I wish to say I have no interest, direct or indirect——

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I never said so. [Cries of "Order!"]

THE HON. MEMBER rose amid loud cries of "Order!" to make some further remarks, but Mr. CHAMBERLAIN declined to give way. Thereupon

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said: I rise to a point of order, Sir. The right hon. Gentleman is speaking a second time by the indulgence of the House. I do not object to that, and I do not think hon. Members object, but at the same time I wish to say that there is a misrepresentation of the charge I made. I never even suggested——

*MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Member has risen to a point of order, I must tell him that what he is now saying has no reference to any point of order. A Member in possession of the House is not bound to give way to another who wishes to correct a misrepresentation. That is not a point of order.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Then I shall ask leave to refer to the matter later on.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (continuing): I have no interest, direct or indirect, in Kynoch's or in any other firm manufacturing ammunition or war materials. I have never interfered directly or indirectly with the distribution of these contracts, and I have never spoken to anyone in the War Office about them. I have no more to do with them than the hon. Member opposite. The hon. Gentleman who interrupted me just now stated what is public property—namely, that my brother is chairman of Kynoch's. That is perfectly true, but I have never discussed the matter with my brother. I have nothing whatever to do with his private concerns, any more than he has anything to do with my public concerns, and it is a gross abuse—[Cries of "Order!"]—it is a gross abuse to attack a public man through his relatives, for whom he is not responsible.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill.

Amendments to—

Colonial Stock Bill [Lords].

Amendment to Amendments to—

Local Government (Ireland) Bill, without amendment.

COPYRIGHT BILL [Lords] AND COPYRIGHT (ARTISTIC) BILL [Lords].

That they communicate Copy of Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament on the Copyright Bill [Lords], and Copyright (Artistic) Bill [Lords], together with the Minutes of Evidence, Proceedings of the Committee, and Appendix, as desired by this House.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners,

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to a number of Bills. (*See* House of Lords Report this day; *ante*, page 965.)

And afterwards Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the LORD CHANCELLOR said:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's Name, and in obedience to Her Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Saturday, the twenty-seventh day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday, the twenty-seventh day of October next."

End of the Seventh Session of the Fourteenth Parliament of Her Majesty.

[TABLE OF STATUTES.

The following Tables are Reproduced by Special Permission of the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office from the Volume of Public General Acts Passed in the 63rd & 64th Years of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. [Published by Authority.]

A TABLE OF THE TITLES
OF
THE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS
PASSED IN THE SIXTH SESSION OF
THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

63 VICTORIA.—A.D. 1899.

1. AN Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March one thousand nine hundred, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this Session of Parliament. (Appropriation.)

2. An Act to raise Money by Treasury Bills for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March nineteen hundred. (Treasury Bills.)

3. An Act to explain References in the Acts of the last Session of Parliament to the next ensuing Session. (Second Session (Explanation).)

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS

PASSED IN THE SEVENTH SESSION OF

THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

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63 & 64 VICTORIA—A.D. 1900.

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1. AN Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the Service of the year ending on the 31st day of March one thousand nine hundred. (Consolidated Fund (No. 1).)

2. An Act to provide for raising Money for the present War in South Africa. (War Loan.)

3. An Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, one thousand nine hundred and one thousand nine hundred and one. (Consolidated Fund (No. 2).)

4. An Act for taking the Census for Great Britain in the year one thousand nine hundred and one. (Census (Great Britain).)

5. An Act to provide during Twelve Months for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army. (Army (Annual).)

6. An Act for taking the Census for Ireland in the year one thousand nine hundred and one. (Census (Ireland.)

7. An Act to grant certain duties of Customs and Inland Revenue to alter other duties, and to amend the Law relating to Customs and Inland Revenue and the National Debt and to make other provision for the financial arrangements of the year. (Finance.)

8. An Act to remove Electoral Disabilities which may arise in the case of Members of the Reserve Militia and Yeomanry Forces and in the case of Volunteers by reason of absence on the Military Service of the Crown. (Electoral Disabilities (Military Service) Removal.)

9. An Act to authorise the grant out of Police Funds of certain Allowances and Gratuities in respect of Police Reservists who are called out on Permanent Service. (Police Reservists Allowances).)

10. An Act to remove doubts respecting the powers of the Local Government Board for Ireland for determining the Area on which certain Expenses are to be chargeable. (Public Health (Ireland).)

11. An Act to provide further Money for the Uganda Railway. (Uganda Railway.)

12. An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia. (Commonwealth of Australia Constitution.)

13. An Act to amend the County Councils (Elections) Act 1891. (County Councils (Elections) Act Amendment.)

14. An Act to provide for the Admission of Solicitors of Courts of British Possessions to the Supreme Courts in the United Kingdom. (Colonial Solicitors.)

15. An Act to amend the Law relating to Burial Grounds. (Burial.)

16. An Act to make further provision for the Term of Office of District Councillors and Guardians. (District Councillors and Guardians (Term of Office).)

17. An Act to amend the Royal Naval Reserve (Volunteer) Act 1859 in relation to calling out the Volunteers for Actual Service. (Naval Reserve (Mobilisation).)

18. An Act to amend the County Surveyors (Ireland) Act 1862. (County Surveyors (Ireland).)

19. An Act for the acquisition of Property for building a new Land Registry Office and other Public Offices in London and for purposes connected therewith. (Land Registry (New Buildings).)

20. An Act to amend the Law regarding Ecclesiastical Assessments in Scotland. (Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland).)

21. An Act to prohibit Child Labour Underground in Mines. (Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground).)

22. An Act to extend the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act 1897 to Workmen in Agriculture. (Workmen's Compensation.)

23. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Removal of Paupers from England to Ireland. (Poor Removal.)

24. An Act to further amend the Law relating to Veterinary Surgeons. (Veterinary Surgeons Amendment.)

25. An Act to amend the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Act, 1843. (Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland).)

26. An Act to amend the Law relating to Charges on Land and to matters connected therewith. (Land Charges.)

27. An Act for the better Prevention of Accidents on Railways. (Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents).)

28. An Act to amend the Inebriates Acts 1879 to 1899 for Scotland (Inebriates Amendment (Scotland).)

29. An Act to assimilate the Country Councis and Borough Council Franchise in Londoul (London County Council Electors Qualification.)

30. An Act to amend the Laws relating to Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licence in Ireland. (Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Retail Licences (Ireland).)

31. An Act to amend the Law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man. (Isle of Man (Customs).)

32. An Act to amend the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 with respect to the Liability of Shipowners and others. (Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and others).)

33. An Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity. (Wild Animals in Captivity Protection.)

34. An Act to amend the ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882. (Ancient Monuments Protection).

35. An Act to restrict the amount of Oil in Manufactured Tobacco. (Oil in Tobacco.)

36. An Act to grant Money for the purpose of certain Local Loans out of the Local Loans Fund and for other purposes relating to Local Loans. (Public Works Loans.)

37. An Act to continue various Expiring Laws. (Expiring Laws Continuance.)

38. An Act to extend the Elementary School Teachers (Superannuation) Act 1898 to Teachers serving in the Isle of Man, and to service as a Teacher in that Island. (Elementary School Teachers Superannuation (Isle of Man).)

39. An Act to amend the Volunteer Act 1863. (Volunteer.)

40. An Act to extend the Elementary School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1898, to Teachers serving in the Island of Jersey, and to service as a Teacher in that Island. (Elementary School Teachers Superannuation (Jersey).)

41. An Act to provide for the alteration of the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order 1899. (Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2).)

42. An Act to amend the Reserve Forces Act. 1882. (Reserve Forces.)

43. An Act to amend the Law relating to Intermediate Education in Ireland. (Intermediate Education (Ireland).)

44. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Exportation of Arms Ammunition and Military and Naval Stores. (Exportation of Arms.)

45. An Act to amend the Poor Relief (Ireland) Acts 1838 to 1892 with respect to relief given by the maintenance of Lunatics and Children and with respect to the quantity of Land which may be acquired under those Acts. (Poor Relief (Ireland).)

46. An Act to relieve Members of County Councils and other Local Authorities from disqualification by reason of absence in certain cases. (Members of Local Authorities Relief.)

47. An Act to amend the Law with regard to the Investment of Money paid into a County Court. (County Courts (Investment).)

48. An Act to amend the Companies Acts. (Companies.)

49. An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to the Election and Proceedings of Town Councils in Scotland. (Town Councils (Scotland).)

50. An Act to amend the Law relating to Agricultural Holdings. (Agricultural Holdings.)

51. An Act to amend the Law with respect to Persons carrying on business as Moneylenders. (Money-lenders.)

52. An Act to make further provision for a Naval Reserve. (Naval Reserve.)

53. An Act to amend the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1893. (Elementary Education.)

54. An Act to amend the Law relating to the number and salaries of the Staff of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland and to provide for the remuneration of certain of the Commissioners. (Lunacy Board (Scotland) Salaries and Clerks.)

55. An Act to amend the Law relating to Executors in Scotland. (Executors (Scotland).)

56. An Act to amend the Military Lands Act 1892. (Military Lands.)

57. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and one and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament. (Appropriation.)

58. An Act to amend the Law relating to Tithe Rent-charge in Ireland. (Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland).)

59. An Act to amend Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890. (Housing of the Working Classes.)

60. An Act to amend the Tramways (Ireland) Acts 1860 to 1896. (Tramways (Ireland).)

61. An Act to provide for raising a Supplemental Loan for the service of the year ending the thirty-first day of March nineteen hundred and one. (Supplemental War Loan.)

62. An Act to amend the Colonial Stock Acts 1877 and 1892 and the Trustee Act 1893. (Colonial Stock.)

63. An Act to amend sections forty-two fifty-one fifty-four sixty-nine one hundred and three one hundred and fifteen and one hundred and twenty-one of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 and Articles nineteen twenty-four and thirty-six of the Schedule to the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898. (Local Government (Ireland).)

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF THE

PUBLIC ACTS OF A LOCAL CHARACTER

PASSED DURING THE SESSION

WHICH ARE PLACED AMONGST THE LOCAL ACTS.

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63 & 64 VICTORIA—A.D. 1900.

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i. AN Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act 1892. (Military Lands Provisional Order Confirmation.)

xxi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act 1886 and the Metropolitan Police Courts Act 1897 relating to lands in the parishes of St. Mary Stratford Bow East Molesey and Clerkenwell. (Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Confirmation.)

xxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Brierley Hill Cleethorpes-with-Thrunscoe Elland Exmouth Newark Penzance Prestwich Redcar Sowerby Bridge and Whitefield. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

xlvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Basingstoke Erdington Farnham Felixstowe and Walton Leek Littleborough Maryport Nantwich Ormskirk and Penrith. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 1.).)

xlvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Allerton Much Woolton Little Woolton and Childwall Barnet Barnstaple Birkenhead (Extension) Bonchurch Boston Brierfield Egremont Hyde and Sudbury. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

xlviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Bredbury and Romiley Bridlington Cheadle and Gatley Hebburn Kendal Long Eaton Lytham Ormesby Sleaford and Tunstall (with Goldenhill and Chell). (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

xlix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Bishop Auckland Caterham (with Warlingham) Cowpen Grantham Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Ogmore Valley Redruth St. Helen's (Isle of Wight) South Blyth and Weybridge. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

l. An Act to confirm a Scheme relating to Petersham Common in the Parish of Petersham and Borough of Richmond in the County of Surrey. (Metropolitan Commons (Petersham) Supplemental.)

li. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Town of Westport. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1).)

lii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Town of Skibbereen. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 2).)

liii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dewsbury Llandudno Macclesfield Manchester Newton in Mackerfield and Wigan. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

liv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aberavon Burslem the Chesterfield Gas and Water Board District Colne Fenton, and Kendal. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

lv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnsley (Rural) Featherstone Hambledon (Rural) Lutterworth (Rural) Orsett (Rural) St. Helens Wigan and the Wirral Joint Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

lvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ilkeston and Rothwell (Northampton). Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Gas).)

lvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 to increase the number of Magistrates in the Burgh of Leith. (Leith Burgh Order Confirmation.)

lviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Hoylake and West Kirby Gas and Water, Manningtree and Mistley (Essex) Gas South Elmsall South Kirkby and North Elmsall Gas and Steyning and District Water. (Gas and Water Orders Confirmation.)

lix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1899 to enable the School Boards for Brighton and Preston United District, Liverpool Plymouth Salford and Willesden to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Brighton and Preston United District &c.).)

lx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Eastbourne Ilfracombe Lowestoft, and Portessie. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

clxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Barmouth Brecon Clacton Cleckheaton Hythe Liversedge Llandilo Ramsgate Romford and Sandgate. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

clxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Berwick-upon-Tweed, Harrow-on-the-Hill Malton the extension of the area of supply of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution (Limited), Newhaven Seaford Thirsk Totnes Witney and Woking. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

clxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890 relating to Broughty Ferry Dunblane and Wormit and Woodhaven. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

clxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Barnard Castle, Cheltenham (Extension) Freshwater and Totland District, the Extension of the Area of Supply under the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Lighting Order 1893 to Gosforth Jarrow Llanrwst Pwllheli Royal Leamington Spa Twickenham and Wallington. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

clxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Banbury, Dartmouth Gosport and Alverstoke Heston and Isleworth Sevenoaks Sheerness Spennymoor Staines Egham and Chertsey Stamford Uxbridge and District and Wellingborough. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

clxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Abergele Gas Irthlingborough Gas Littlehampton Gas Lymington Gas Mablethorpe and Sutton Gas and Romford Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

clxxii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Wath-upon-Dearne and District Gas. (Gas Order Confirmation (No. 3).)

clxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to East Surrey Water Hayling Water Maidenhead Water Sevenoaks Water South-West Suburban Water and Tonbridge Water. (Water Orders Confirmation.)

clxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Accrington Chipping Norton Gosport and Alverstoke Kingswinford (Rural), Newport Pagnell, and Wirral (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

clxxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Abergele and Pensarn Bradford-on-Avon Dorking (Rural) Haworth Henley (Rural) Hove Manchester and Wokingham (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

clxxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Atherton Barmouth Clitheroe Leicester Stafford and Teignmouth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

clxxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Cuckfield (Rural) Leigh Milford Haven, and Wallasey. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

clxxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Burton-upon-Trent Dorchester the Parts of Kesteven Warrington and Winchester. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

clxxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Harrogate Heywood Ripon Rochdale and Tunbridge Wells. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

clxxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barrow-upon-Soar (Rural) Bootle and Ongar (Rural) and the Doncaster and Mexborough, and the Shepley and Shelley United Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 11).)

clxxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Lancaster Ossett and Wakefield. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

clxxxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-under-Lyne Bury Leyton Shipley and Sunderland. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13).)

clxxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Gloucester Northampton and Torquay and to the Walton-upon-Trent Bridge in the Counties of Derby and Stafford. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14).)

clxxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Hursley Union and the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Poor Law).)

clxxxv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Bath. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

clxxxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parishes of St. James and St. John Clerkenwell and St. Andrew Holborn, in the County of London. (London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

clxxxvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parishes of Poplar and Bromley-by-Bow in the County of London. (London (Poplar) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

clxxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parish of St. Luke in the County of London. (London (St. Luke) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

clxxxix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parish of St. George the Martyr Southwark in the County of London. (London (Southwark) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

cxc. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Urban Districts of Clones Londonderry Monaghan Pembroke Rathmines and Rathgar and Wicklow and the Rural Districts of Dungarvan and Rathdrum. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

cxci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Urban District of Navan and the Towns of Boyle and Newbridge. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

cxcii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Bray. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes (No. 2).)

cxciii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Ayr Bridlington Felixstowe and Penryn. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

cxciv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Perth and Paisley. (Perth and Paisley Gas Orders Confirmation.)

cxcv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage District and to Acton Chester (Rural), Reigate Weymouth (Rural) and Wigan (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

cxcvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Birmingham Tame and Rea Main Sewerage District, and to Leeds and Wolverhampton. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 15).)

cxcvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1899 to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London).)

cxcviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council Tramways Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Hurst Urban District Council Tramways Kearsley Urban District Council Tramways Prestwich Urban District Council Tramways Reddish Urban District Council Tramways and Wigan Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

cxcix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bedford Corporation Tramways Bootle Corporation Tramways Radcliffe Urban District Council Tramways St. Helens Corporation Tramways and Warwick Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

cc. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Batley Corporation Tramways Camborne and Redruth Tramway East Ham Urban District Council Tramways Hull Corporation Tramways Middleton Corporation Tramways Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways and Southampton Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

cci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation Tramways Garston Tramway Gorton Urban District Council Tramways Plymouth Corporation Tramways Taunton Tramways and Warrington Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

ccii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the Improvement of a certain Area situated in the Parish of St. Marylebone in the County of London. (London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

cciii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 relating to Paisley Waterworks. (Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation.)

cciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under Part I. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 relating to the City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh. (Edinburgh Improvement Scheme Provisional Order Confirmation.)

ccv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Dublin and Belfast. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

ccvi. An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire Lands in London Bristol Ilford Sheffield and Southampton for the Public Service and for other purposes. (Post Office (Sites).)

ccvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Battersea Limehouse Mile End Old Town and St. George-in-the-East. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

ccviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Houghton-le-Spring and District Tramways Liverpool Corporation Tramways Extensions Portsmouth Corporation Tramways Rothesay Tramways Weston-super-Mare Tramways and Whitefield Urban District Council Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

A TABLE OF THE TITLES

OF

THE LOCAL AND PRIVATE ACTS

PASSED DURING THE SESSION.

63 & 64 VICTORIA—A.D. 1900.

LOCAL ACTS.

The Titles to which the letter **P** *is prefixed are Public Acts of a Local Character.*

ROYAL ASSENT, 9th April, 1900.

P i. AN Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act 1892. (Military Lands Provisional Order Confirmation.)

ii. An Act to increase the limit of the Note issue of the Colonial Bank and for other purposes. (Colonial Bank.)

ROYAL ASSENT 25th May 1900.

iii. An Act to explain vary or alter the Deed of Settlement of the Universal Life Assurance Society and for other purposes. (Universal Life Assurance Society's.)

iv. An Act for regulating the rating of Pontefract Park in the West Riding of the County of York in respect of poor rates and for other purposes. (Pontefract Park (Poor Rate).)

v. An Act to amend the City and South London Railway Acts 1893 and 1898. (City and South London Railway.)

vi. An Act to enable the Cheshire Lines Committee to make a new railway to acquire additional lands to stop up certain streets and for other purposes. (Cheshire Lines.)

vii. An Act to confer further powers on the Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society and the Directors thereof to amend the Acts relating to the Society and for other purposes. (Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society's.)

viii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Redhill Gas Company and for other purposes. (Redhill Gas.)

ix. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Rugeley Gas Company and for other purposes. (Rugeley Gas.)

x. An Act to extend the powers of the Charing Cross Euston and Hampstead Railway Company and for other purposes. (Charing Cross Euston and Hampstead Railway.)

xi. An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to Alexander Imschenetzky for an Invention for manufacture of fireproof and insulating compounds known as Uralite. (Uralite Patent.)

xii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and for other purposes. (Kingston-upon-Thames Corporation.)

xiii. An Act to authorise the Newport (Monmouthshire) Gas Company to extend their limits for the supply of Gas to consolidate and increase their capital and for other purposes. (Newport (Monmouthshire) Gas.)

xiv. An Act to confer further powers on the Grantham Gas Company and for other purposes. (Grantham Gas.)

xv. An Act to authorise the Kingston-upon-Thames Gas Company to raise additional capital convert their existing capital acquire lands amend their existing Acts and for other purposes. (Kingston-upon-Thames Gas.)

xvi. An Act to confer further powers upon the Southampton Harbour Board and for other purposes. (Southampton Harbour.)

xvii. An Act to enable the Wetherby District Water Company to extend their limits of supply construct additional waterworks and for other purposes. (Wetherby District Water.)

xviii. An Act for authorising the Army and Navy Investment Trust Company Limited to prepare and carry into effect a Scheme or Schemes of Arrangement with its stockholders or with holders of either class of stock and to reduce its capital and for other purposes. (Army and Navy Investment Trust Company (Limited).)

xix. An Act to transfer all the property and liabilities of Mason University College in the city of Birmingham, to the University of Birmingham, and to repeal the Mason University College Act 1897 to confer certain powers on the said University and for other purposes. (Birmingham University.)

xx. An Act to alter the capital of the New Russia Company Limited and for other purposes. (New Russia Company.)

P. xxi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act 1886 and the Metropolitan Police Courts Act 1897 relating to lands in the parishes of St. Mary Stratford Bow East Molesey and Clerkenwell. (Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P. xxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Brierley Hill Cleethorpes-with-Thrunscoe Elland Exmouth Newark Penzance Prestwich Redcar Sowerby Bridge and Whitefield. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

ROYAL ASSENT, 25th June, 1900.

xxiii. An Act to confirm the issue by the Rhymney Iron Company, Limited, of certain shares credited as partly paid up. (Rhymney Iron Company's.)

xxiv. An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to Melvin Batchlor Church for the manufacture of an improved compound for coating and decorating walls and other surfaces and for the production of casts or mouldings and for analogous purposes. (Church's Patent.)

xxv. An Act to enable the Urban District Council of Otley to construct additional waterworks and for other purposes. (Otley Urban District Council (Waterworks).)

xxvi. An Act to empower the Cork Bandon and South Coast Railway Company to stop up certain level crossings and substitute bridges, to divert and alter certain roads to construct an aerial ropeway to acquire additional lands to consolidate their debenture stocks, and amend their Act of 1888 as to the consolidation of preference stocks to subscribe to the Bantry Bay Steamship Company Limited to confer further powers upon the Company and for other purposes. (Cork Bandon and South Coast Railway.)

xxvii. An Act for supplying with water the Borough of Higham Ferrers and certain parishes and places adjacent thereto in the County of Northampton. (Higham Ferrers Water.)

xxviii. An Act to convert the capital of the Cleethorpes Gas Company to raise additional capital to construct works and for other purposes. (Cleethorpes Gas.)

xxix. An Act to further amend the Acts relating to the Harbour of Dundee and for other purposes. (Dundee Harbour (Amendment).)

xxx. An Act to confer further powers on the London Brighton and South Coast Railway Company and for other purposes. (London, Brighton and South Coast Railway (Various Powers).)

xxxi. An Act for empowering the Governments Stock and other Securities Investment Company Limited to increase the dividend upon its Preferred Ordinary Stock, and to amend the Governments Stock Investment Company Limited Act 1887. (Governments Stock and other Securities Investment Company Limited.)

xxxii. An Act for the granting of further powers to the Southport Waterworks Company. (Southport Water.)

xxxiii. An Act to extend the periods limited for the purchase of lands for and for the completion of the harbour works to enable the Commissioners to borrow further money and for other purposes. (Hastings Harbour.)

xxxiv. An Act to amend the Maidenhead Ga Act 1876 and to confer further powers upon the Maidenhead Gas Company. (Maidenhead Gas.)

xxxv. An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Glastonbury to supply gas and to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Glastonbury Gas and Coke Company Limited to the Corporation and for other purposes. (Glastonbury Corporation Gas.)

xxxvi. An Act to enable the Manchester Ship Canal Company to acquire the Manchester Racecourse and other lands, and to construct a new dock railway and works to establish a thrift fund for their officers and servants and for other purposes. (Manchester Ship Canal.)

xxxvii. An Act to amend the Central London Railway Act 1891 with reference to cheap fares for labouring classes. (Central London Railway.)

xxxviii. An Act to constitute an Inebriates Acts Board for the County Palatine of Lancaster and for other purposes. (Lancashire Inebriates Acts Board.)

xxxix. An Act for empowering the Dorking Water Company to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Dorking Water.)

xl. An Act to enable the Fishguard Water and Gas Company to extend their limits of supply to construct additional waterworks and gasworks to change the name of the Company and for other purposes. (North Pembrokeshire Water and Gas.)

xli. An Act to authorise the Rural District Council of Wharfedale to purchase the undertaking of the Menstone Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Menstone Waterworks (Transfer).)

xlii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Newport for the construction of a bridge over the River Usk and of tramways and other works and for other purposes. (Newport Corporation.)

xliii. An Act to empower the Urban District Council of the Urban District of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn to supply gas and to purchase the undertaking of the Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Gas and Coke Company Limited and for other purposes. (Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Gas.)

xliv. An Act to empower the Urban District Council of Cowes to construct a pier and other works to borrow moneys therefor and for other purposes. (Cowes Pier.)

xlv. An Act to enable the Great Central Railway Company to make new railways and other works to acquire additional lands to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of certain lands, for the completion of certain railways and for the sale of superfluous lands, to raise additional capital to define and regulate the existing capital of the company to confer further powers upon the Wrexham Mold, and Connah's Quay Railway Company, the Liverpool St. Helens and South Lancashire Railway Company and the Nottingham Joint Station Committee and for other purposes. (Great Central Railway.)

P xlvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Basingstoke Erdington Farnham Felixstowe and Walton Leek Littleborough Maryport Nantwich Ormskirk and Penrith. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P xlvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Allerton Much Woolton Little Woolton and Childwall Barnet Barnstaple Birkenhead (Extension), Bonchurch Boston Brierfield Egremont Hyde and Sudbury. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P xlviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888, relating to Bredbury and Romiley Bridlington Cheadle and Gatley Hebburn Kendal Long Eaton Lytham Ormesby Sleaford, and Tunstall (with Goldenhill and Chell). (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P xlix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Bishop Auckland Caterham (with Warlingham) Cowpen Grantham Nuneaton, and Chilvers Coton, Ogmore Valley Redruth St. Helen's (Isle of Wight) South Blyth, and Weybridge. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

ROYAL ASSENT, 10th July, 1900.

P l. An Act to confirm a scheme relating to Petersham Common in the Parish of Petersham and Borough of Richmond in the County of Surrey. (Metropolitan Commons (Petérsham) Supplemental.)

P li. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Town of Westport. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1).)

P lii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Town of Skibbereen. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional OrderConfirmation (No. 2).)

P liii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dewsbury Llandudno Macclesfield Manchester Newton in Mackerfield and Wigan. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P liv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aberavon Burslem the Chesterfield Gas and Water Board District Colne Fenton and Kendal. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P lv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnsley (Rural) Featherstone Hambledon (Rural) Lutterworth (Rural) Orsett (Rural) St. Helens Wigan and the Wirral Joint Hospital District. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P lvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ilkeston and Rothwell (Northampton). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Gas).)

P lvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 to increase the number of Magistrates in the Burgh of Leith. (Leith Burgh Order Confirmation.)

P lviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Hoylake and West Kirby Gas and Water Manningtree and Mistley (Essex) Gas South Elmsall South Kirkby and North Elmsall Gas and Steyning and District Water. (Gas and Water Orders Confirmation.)

P lix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Education Department under the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1899 to enable the School Boards for Brighton and Preston United District Liverpool Plymouth Salford and Willesden to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Brighton and Preston United District, &c.).)

P lx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Eastbourne Ilfracombe Lowestoft and Portessie. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

lxi. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Great Berkhampstead Waterworks Company. (Great Berkhampstead Waterworks.)

lxii. An Act to authorise the Commissioners of the Burgh of Motherwell to provide an additional water supply to the burgh and to make and maintain new and additional waterworks, and for other purposes. (Motherwell Water (Additional Supply).)

lxiii. An Act to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Morecambe Gas and Light Company to the Morecambe Urban District Council and to confer further powers on the said Council with respect to the supply of gas and for other purposes. (Morecambe Urban District Council (Gas).)

lxiv. An Act to make new provisions with respect to the governing body of the Schools of King Edward the Sixth in Birmingham and with respect to the management of the schools property and revenues under their control and to confer further powers on the said governing body and for other purposes. (Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools.)

lxv. An Act to authorise the sale of the undertaking of the Ossett Gas Company to the Corporation of Ossett and to empower the Corporation to supply gas within the Borough of Ossett and places adjacent thereto. (Ossett Corporation Gas.)

lxvi. An Act to extend the boundaries of the Borough of Southport to authorise the construction of tramways and to confer further powers on the Corporation with respect to the supply of gas and electricity and for other purposes. (Southport Extension and Tramways.)

lxvii. An Act to empower the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of Stockport to construct tramways in the borough and for other purposes. (Stockport Corporation Tramways.)

lxviii. An Act to amend in certain respects the Acts relating to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and for other purposes. (Mersey Docks and Harbour.)

lxix. An Act to authorise the Paignton Urban District Council to construct additional waterworks and for other purposes. (Paignton Urban District Water.)

lxx. An Act for enabling the Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust Limited to arrange for the extinction of its Founders Shares for issuing shares in satisfaction of such shares for subdividing the stock of the Company and creating certain preferences and for other purposes.—(Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust Limited Conversion of Shares.)

lxxi. An Act to extend the powers of the Bristol Waterworks Company for the protection of the purity of their waters. (Bristol Waterworks.)

lxxii. An Act to remove doubts as to the investment of moneys belonging to the Life Fund of the Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited in the name of the Company and for other purposes. (Commercial Union Assurance Company (Limited).)

lxxiii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Milford Dock Company and for other purposes. (Milford Docks.)

lxxiv. An Act to amend the provisions of the Local Acts and Orders in force in the City of Birmingham which relate to Birmingham Corporation Stock and to make further and better provisions with respect to the borrowing of money by the Corporation of Birmingham. (Birmingham Corporation (Stock).)

lxxv. An Act for empowering the Scottish American Investment Company Limited to create a preference stock and for other purposes relating thereto. (Scottish American Investment Company Limited.)

lxxvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Bedford Gas Light Company. (Bedford Gas.)

lxxvii. An Act to confer upon the Neath Harbour Commissioners further powers for the improvement of the Harbour to reduce and regulate the indebtedness and borrowing powers of the Commissioners and for other purposes. (Neath Harbour.)

lxxviii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Taff Vale Railway Company with reference to the construction of works and the acquisition of lands, and for other purposes. (Taff Vale Railway.)

lxxix. An Act to confer powers upon the Urban District Council of Hoylake and West Kirby for the construction of a parade new streets pier and other works to authorise the inclosure of the Great Meols Common and for other purposes. (Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement.)

lxxx. An Act to empower the Mayor Aldermenand Citizens of the city of Wakefield to purchase the undertaking of the Wakefield Borough Market Company and to make further provision in regard to the markets and slaughter-houses of the said city and for other purposes. (Wakefield Corporation Market.)

lxxxi. An Act for empowering the British Gas Light Company Limited to erect new works and to expend further capital at their Staffordshire Potteries Station. (British Gas Light Company Limited (Staffordshire Potteries).)

lxxxii. An Act for conferring further powers on the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company for the construction of works and the acquisition of lands for extending the powers of the Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway Company for the compulsory purchase of lands, for empowering the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Glasgow and South Western Railway.)

lxxxiii. An Act for conferring further powers on the South Eastern Railway Company in reference to their own undertaking and the undertakings of other Companies in which they are interested and for other purposes. (South Eastern Railway.)

lxxxiv. An Act to amend the Hamilton Burgh Act 1878 and for other purposes. (Hamilton Burgh.)

lxxxv. An Act to enable the North Warwickshire Water Company to extend their limits of supply to construct additional waterworks and for other purposes. (North Warwickshire Water.)

lxxxvi. An Act to authorise the construction of a bridge across the River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal between Widnes and Runcorn and for other purposes. (Widnes and Runcorn Bridge.)

lxxxvii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Corporation of the City of Lincoln with respect to tramways and to authorise the Corporation to construct new tramways and to work tramways within and without the city and to borrow money and for other purposes. (Lincoln Corporation (Tramways etc.).)

lxxxviii. An Act to empower the City of London Electric Lighting Company Limited to acquire lands and work generating stations, and for other purposes. (City of London Electric Lighting.)

lxxxix. An Act for conferring further powers on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company with relation to their own undertaking and upon that Company and the London and North Western Railway Company with relation to the Preston and Wyre Railway and for other purposes. (Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.)

xc. An Act for incorporating the Woodbridge District Water Company and empowering them to construct works and supply water and for other purposes. (Woodbridge District Water.)

xci. An Act to authorise the Wirral Railway Company to work the traffic on their railways by electrical or other motive power and for other purposes. (Wirral Railway.)

xcii. An Act to authorise the Sheffield District Railway Company to construct a branch railway bridges and other works in connection with their undertaking and to raise additional capital, and for other purposes. (Sheffield District Railway.)

xciii. An Act to empower the Eastern District Committee of the County Council of the County of Stirling to construct waterworks and to supply water within their district to authorise the County Council of the County of Stirling to acquire lands and servitudes for the purposes of such water supply to authorise and require the said County Council to levy assessments and to borrow money and for other purposes. (East Stirlingshire Water.)

Royal Assent 30th July 1900.

xciv. An Act to consolidate and convert the capital of the Hartlepool Gas and Water Company and to enable that Company to raise additional moneys and for other purposes. (Hartlepool Gas and Water.)

xcv. An Act for the abandonment of the Latimer Road and Acton Railway. (Latimer Road and Acton Railway.)

xcvi. An Act to authorise the Urban District Council of Mountain Ash to construct additional waterworks and gasworks and for other purposes. (Mountain Ash Water and Gas.)

xcvii. An Act to incorporate the Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Company and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways and for other purposes. (Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways.)

xcviii. An Act to constitute and incorporate a Water Trust for the Burghs of Coatbridge and Airdrie and the districts adjacent thereto in the County of Lanark to transfer to and vest in such Trust the undertaking of the Airdrie and Coatbridge Water Company and for other purposes. (Airdrie, Coatbridge, and District Water Trust.)

xcix. An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of Brighton to construct and work tramways to erect electric generating stations and for other purposes. (Brighton Corporation.)

c. An Act to confer powers upon the Corporation of the Borough of Reading with respect to the construction and working of tramways in the borough, and for other purposes. (Reading Corporation (Tramways).)

ci. An Act for conferring further powers on the Wolverhampton Gas Company. (Wolverhampton Gas.)

cii. An Act to extend the period for the purchase of lands and for the construction of the authorised railway and to work the traffic thereon by electrical or other motive power and for other purposes. (Vale of Rheidol Light Railway.)

ciii. An Act for enlarging the powers of the Commissioners of the Port and Haven of Great Yarmouth and for other purposes. (Great Yarmouth Port and Haven.)

civ. An Act to empower the District Lunacy Board for the Edinburgh Lunacy District to construct railways waterworks sewerage and other works in the County of Linlithgow to acquire lands for protection of their water supply, and for other purposes. (Edinburgh District Lunacy Board.)

cv. An Act to enable the Cork Electric Tramways and Lighting Company Limited to extend their tramways to Blackrock and for other purposes. (Cork Electric Tramways (Extension).)

cvi. An Act to empower the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Company to construct additional harbour works at Rosslare and alterations of portions of their authorised railways and for other purposes. (Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.)

cvii. An Act to authorise the Urban District Council of Spalding to purchase the undertaking of the Spalding Waterworks Company and for other purposes. (Spalding Water.)

cviii. An Act to authorise the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Falkirk to construct new gasworks and other works and to acquire lands and to confer further powers on the Magistrates and Council in relation to their gas undertaking, to extend the municipal and police boundaries of the Burgh and for other purposes. (Falkirk Corporation Gas and Burgh Extension.)

cix. An Act to enable the Rhymney Railway Company to raise additional capital, and for other purposes. Rhymney Railway.)

cx. An Act to authorise the Great Eastern Railway Company to make further railways widenings and works to confirm an agreement between the Company and the Hertford County Council and the Epping Rural District Council and other parties and to authorise the Company and the said County Council and District Council to construct roads in accordance therewith to extend the time for the purchase of lands for and for the completion of part of an authorised railway to confer further powers upon the Company and for other purposes. (Great Eastern Railway (General Powers).)

cxi. An Act for the amalgamation of the undertakings of the London and St. Katharine Docks Company and the East and West India Dock Company, and for other purposes. (London and India Docks Amalgamation.)

cxii. An Act to authorise the Saint Alban's Waterworks Company to acquire further lands and to raise further moneys, and to extend their limits of supply and for other purposes. (St. Alban's Waterworks.)

cxiii. An Act to divide the separate undertaking authorised by the Donegal Railway Act 1896 into two separate undertakings to extend the time for the purchase of lands and completion of works by that Act authorised to provide for the granting of rebates in favour of the railway from Donegal to Ballyshannon, to release the County Council of the County of Donegal from their liability under the West Donegal Light Railway Order and for other purposes. (Donegal Railway.)

cxiv. An Act to empower the Great Southern and Western Railway Company to construct a pier at Valencia to abstract water from the River Suir and lay pipes to their Thurles Station to acquire additional lands to vest in the Company the undertaking of the Mitchelstown and Fermoy Light Railway Company, to subscribe further sums to the Southern Hotels (Limited) to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Great Southern and Western Railway.)

cxv. An Act to continue the powers for the making of and to extend the time limited for the completion of certain works authorised by the Bray Township Act 1890 namely the Promenade Pier and landing stage thereby authorised and for other purposes. (Bray Urban District Council (Extension of Time).)

xvi. An Act for defining and extending the limits of supply of the Westgate and Birchington Water Company and for conferring further powers on the Company for the construction of works, the raising of capital and otherwise in relation to their undertaking and for other purposes. (Westgate and Birchington Water.)

xvii. An Act to alter the constitution and amend and extend the statutory powers of the Lee Conservancy Board. (Lee Conservancy.)

xviii. An Act to consolidate the Debenture Stocks of the North Metropolitan Railway and Canal Company to amend in certain respects the Acts relating to the Company to change the Name of the Company and for other purposes. (Regent's Canal and Dock.)

xix. An Act to authorise the South Staffordshire Tramways Company to sell and transfer portions of their undertaking to local authorities to confirm a lease of their undertaking to the South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Company Limited to rearrange their capital and for other purposes. (South Staffordshire Tramways.)

cxx. An Act to provide an additional supply of water to the Burgh of Falkirk and districts and places adjacent and for the construction and maintenance of new and additional works to extend the limits of compulsory supply to confer further powers on the Falkirk and Larbert Water Trustees and for other purposes. (Falkirk and District Waterworks.)

cxxi. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Hamilton Motherwell and Wishaw Tramways Company and for other purposes. (Hamilton Motherwell and Wishaw Tramways.)

cxxii. An Act to empower the British Electric Traction Company Limited to construct tramroads in the County of Northampton and for other purposes. (Wellingborough and District Tramroads.)

cxxiii. An Act to empower the Urban District Council for the District of Aston Manor in the County of Warwick to construct tramways and to confer various powers relating to tramways upon that District Council. (Aston Manor Tramways.)

cxxiv. An Act to authorise the Exmouth Urban District Council to purchase the undertaking of the Exmouth and District Waterworks Company and to supply water within their district and the parish of East Budleigh and for other purposes. (Exmouth Urban District Water.)

cxxv. An Act for supplying with water the Parish of Llanllyfni being part of the Rural District of Gwyrfai in the County of Carnarvon. (Gwyrfai District Water.)

cxxvi. An Act to extend the time limited by the Dearne Valley Railway Act, 1897 for the compulsory purchase of lands for and the completion of certain of the works thereby authorised to authorise the Dearne Valley Railway Company to abandon certain of their authorised works and to construct further works and for other purposes. (Dearne Valley Railway.)

cxxvii. An Act to confer further powers on the Whitechapel and Bow Railway Company and for other purposes. (Whitechapel and Bow Railway.)

cxxviii. An Act for reorganising the capital of the G. H. Hammond Company Limited and enabling that Company to redeem and convert its debentures and income stock. (G. H. Hammond Company (Limited).)

cxxix. An Act to reduce the capital and extend the powers of the London and San Francisco Bank Limited and for other purposes. (London and San Francisco Bank, Limited.)

cxxx. An Act to authorise the Belfast and County Down Railway Company to construct a railway from Newcastle to join the railway of the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) at Castlewellan, to run over and use a portion of the railway of that Company to confer further powers upon the Company with reference to steam vessels, and further powers in connection with their undertaking, and for other purposes. (Belfast and County Down Railway.)

cxxxi. An Act to enable the Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Company to raise additional capital, and for other purposes. (Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Company's (Electricity Capital).)

cxxxii. An Act to empower the Corporation of Nottingham to make certain street improvements, and for other purposes. (Nottingham Corporation.)

cxxxiii. An Act to extend the boundaries of the city and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh and County of the City of Edinburgh to authorise the Lord Provost Magistrates and Council of the City to purchase and acquire lands at Saughton to erect and maintain a tramway power station at Portobello to construct works and tramways to acquire lands to amend Acts and for other purposes. (Edinburgh Corporation.)

cxxxiv. An Act to authorise the working of the Mersey Railway and railways connected therewith by electricity, to regulate the capital of the Mersey Railway Company and for other purposes. (Mersey Railway.)

cxxxv. An Act to empower the Rawmarsh Urban District Council to construct and work tramways and to make street improvements and for other purposes. (Rawmarsh Urban District Council (Tramways).)

cxxxvi. An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Grimsby Street Railways Company with respect to the construction and working of tramways in the Borough of Grimsby and for other purposes. (Great Grimsby Street Tramways.)

cxxxvii. An Act to authorise the Company of Proprietors of the Margate Pier and Harbour to construct works to raise additional capital and for other purposes relating to the undertaking of the Company. (Margate Pier and Harbour.)

cxxxviii. An Act to provide for the vesting of the railways and other property of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company in the Secretary of State in Council of India and for other purposes. (Great India Peninsula Railway Purchase.)

cxxxix. An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Northern Railway Company. (Great Northern Railway.)

cxl. An Act to incorporate the Hastings Tramways Company and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways and other works in the County Borough of Hastings and for other purposes. (Hastings Tramways.)

cxli. An Act to authorise the Company of Proprietors of Lambeth Waterworks to execute further works to purchase additional lands to take further water from the River Thames and to raise further money and for other purposes. (Lambeth Waterworks.)

cxlii. An Act to confer further powers on the Lancashire Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway Company. (Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway.)

cxliii. An Act to confer additional powers upon the Midland Railway Company and upon the Midland and North Eastern Railway Companies Committee and upon the Midland and Great Northern Railways Joint Committee for the construction of works and the acquisition of lands to empower the Midland Railway Company to subscribe towards the undertaking of the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company and for other purposes. (Midland Railway.)

cxliv. An Act to constitute and incorporate a Joint Water Board consisting of representatives from the Councils of the respective Boroughs of Bury Haslingden and Rawtenstall and the Urban Districts of Radcliffe Ramsbottom Little Lever Whitefield and Tottington and the Rural District of Bury all in the County Palatine of Lancaster and to transfer to and vest in such Board the water undertaking of the Bury Corporation and for other purposes. (Bury and District Water (Transfer).)

cxlv. An Act to alter the numbers and boundaries of the wards of the Borough of Preston and to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the said borough to reconstruct their existing and to construct additional tramways in and adjacent to the borough and to make further provisions for the good government of the borough. (Preston Corporation.)

cxlvi. An Act to confer further powers on the London Sea Water Supply Company. (London Sea Water Supply.)

cxlvii. An Act for conferring further powers on the South Eastern Metropolitan Tramways Company for using mechanical power on their tramways and for other purposes. (South Eastern Metropolitan Tramways.)

cxlviii. An Act to empower the Urban District Council of Portland to supply gas and to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of Sir Richard Nicholas Howard as Successor of the Portland Gas Light and Coke and Coal Company Limited to the Council and to make further provision in regard to the finance of the said district and for other purposes. (Portland Urban District (Gas etc.).)

cxlix. An Act to confer further powers upon the Corporation of Burnley and neighbouring authorities with respect to tramways and street improvements within and beyond the borough and for other purposes. (Burnley Corporation.)

cl. An Act to amend and extend the provisions of the Glasgow Police Acts 1866 to 1899 relating to streets sewers and buildings. (Glasgow Building Regulations.)

cli. An Act for making and maintaining Railways in the County of Lanark to be called the Motherwell and Bellshill Railway and for other purposes. (Motherwell and Bellshill Railway.)

clii. An Act to empower the North Eastern Railway Company to own and use vessels for the conveyance of traffic between Hull and Rotterdam Amsterdam and Harlingen and for other purposes. (North Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels).)

cliii. An Act to confer further powers on the Corporation of Rotherham in regard to tramways street improvements water and gas supply and the Local Government of the Borough. (Rotherham Corporation.)

cliv. An Act to empower the Glyncorrwg Urban District Council to supply Gas and to provide for the transfer to them of the part of the undertaking of the Llynvi Valley Gas Company situate in their district and for other purposes. (Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas.)

clv. An Act to empower the Corporation of Barnsley to make deviations in constructing the lines of pipes authorised by the Barnsley Corporation (Water) Act 1896 to transfer to them certain powers works and obligations granted or transferred to the Corporation of Sheffield by the Sheffield Corporation Water Act 1896 and to extend the periods for the taking of lands and for the construction of works and for other purposes. (Barnsley Corporation (Water).)

clvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company for making works, and acquiring lands and raising and applying capital moneys and other matters relating to their several undertakings, and for other purposes. (Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway.)

clvii. An Act to confer upon the Corporation of Ramsgate further powers with reference to the local government and improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Ramsgate Corporation.)

clviii. An Act to confer powers upon the Corporation of the Borough of South Shields for the construction of street works and improvements and for other purposes. (South Shields Corporation.)

clix. An Act to authorise the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen to construct additional tramways and to make certain street improvements in connection therewith, and for other purposes. (Aberdeen Corporation Tramways.)

clx. An Act for conferring further powers upon the Great Western Railway Company in respect of their own undertaking and upon that Company and the London and North-Western Railway Company in respect of undertakings in which they are jointly interested and upon the Great Western and Great Central Railways Joint Committee in respect of their undertaking for vesting the undertakings of the Staines and West Drayton and the Birmingham and Henley-in-Arden Railway Companies in the Great Western Railway Company for transferring to that Company the powers of the Birmingham North Warwickshire and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Company and extending the time for the construction of certain authorised railways of that Company and for other purposes. (Great Western Railway.)

clxi. An Act to confer further powers upon the London and South Western Railway Company and to authorise them to execute further works, to acquire additional lands, and to raise further money and to vary in certain respects the provisions of the South Western Railway Act 1899 and for other purposes. (South Western Railway.)

clxii. An Act to empower the South Metropolitan Gas Company to alter the provisions as to the standard price and illuminating power of the gas supplied by the Company, to construct a railway in the parish of Greenwich, and for other purposes. (South Metropolitan Gas.)

clxiii. An Act to confer additional powers upon the North Eastern Railway Company for the construction of new railways and other works and the acquisition of additional lands, and upon that Company and the London and North Western Railway Company in respect of the Leeds New Station and for vesting in the Company the Londonderry (Seaham to Sunderland) Railway the Cawood Wistow and Selby Light Railway and the Merrybent and Darlington Railway and for other purposes. (North Eastern Railway.)

clxiv. An Act to provide for the conversion of the capital stocks of the Crystal Palace Company into shares and to empower them to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Crystal Palace Company's.)

clxv. An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to John Pearce Roe for an invention for improvements in apparatus for shipping or transferring coal and other materials. (Roe's Patent.)

P clxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barmouth, Brecon, Clacton, Cleckheaton, Hythe, Liversedge, Llandilo, Ramsgate, Romford, and Sandgate. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

P clxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888 relating to Berwick-upon-Tweed Harrow-on-the-Hill Malton the extension of the area of supply of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution (Limited) Newhaven Seaford Thirsk Totnes Witney and Woking (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

P clxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, relating to Broughty Ferry, Dunblane and Wormit and Woodhaven. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

P clxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Barnard Castle Cheltenham (Extension) Freshwater and Totland District the Extension of the Area of Supply under the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Lighting Order 1893 to Gosforth Jarrow Llanrwst Pwllheli Royal Leamington Spa Twickenham and Wallington (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

P clxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Banbury Dartmouth Gosport and Alverstoke Heston Isleworth Sevenoaks Sheerness Spennymoor Staines Egham and Chertsey Stamford Uxbridge and District and Wellingborough. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

P clxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Abergele Gas, Irthlingborough Gas Littlehampton Gas, Lymington Gas Mablethorpe and Sutton Gas and Romford Gas. (Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P clxxii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to Wath-upon-Dearne and District Gas. (Gas Order Confirmation (No. 3).)

P clxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 relating to East Surrey Water Hayling Water Maidenhead Water Sevenoaks Water South-West Surburban Water and Tonbridge Water. (Water Orders Confirmation.)

P clxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Accringtou Chipping Norton Gosport and Alverstoke Kingswinford (Rural) Newport Pagnell and Wirral (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P clxxv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Abergele and Pensarn Bradford-on-Avon Dorking (Rural) Haworth Henley (Rural) Hove Manchester and Wokingham (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

P clxxvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Atherton Barmouth Clitheroe Leicester Stafford and Teignmouth. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 6).)

P clxxvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Cuckfield (Rural Leigh Milford Haven and Wallasey. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 8).)

P clxxviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Burton-upon-Trent Dorchester the Parts of Kesteven Warrington and Winchester. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 9).)

P clxxix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Harrogate Heywood Ripon Rochdale and Tunbridge Wells. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

P clxxx. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barrow-upon-Soar (Rural) Bootle and Ongar (Rural) and the Doncaster and Mexborough and the Shepley and Shelley United Districts. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 11).)

P clxxxi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Lancaster Ossett and Wakefield. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12).)

P clxxxii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Aston-under-Lyne Bury Leyton Shipley and Sunderland. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13).)

P clxxxiii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Gloucester Northampton and Torquay and to the Walton-upon-Trent Bridge in the Counties of Derby and Stafford. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14).)

P clxxxiv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Hursley Union and the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Poor Law).)

P clxxxv. An Act to confirm Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Bath. (Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

P clxxxvi. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parishes of St. James and St. John Clerkenwell and St. Andrew Holborn in the County of London. (London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order Confirmation).)

P clxxxvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parishes of Poplar and Bromley-by-Bow in the County of London. (London (Poplar) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P clxxxviii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parish of St. Luke in the County of London. (London (St. Luke) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P clxxxix. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for improving certain Areas situated in the Parish of St. George the Martyr Southwark in the County of London. (London (Southwark) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P cxc. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Urban Districts of Clones Londonderry Monaghan Pembroke Rathmines and Rathgar and Wicklow and the Rural Districts of Dungarvan and Rathdrum. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P cxci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the Urban District of Navan and the towns of Boyle and Newbridge. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes).)

P cxcii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Bray. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes (No. 2).)

P cxciii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act 1861 relating to Ayr Bridlington Felixstowe and Penrhyn. (Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P cxciv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 relating to Perth and Paisley. (Perth and Paisley Gas Orders Confirmation.

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P cxcv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage District and to Acton Chester (Rural) Reigate Weymouth (Rural) and Wigan (Rural). (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7).)

P cxcvi. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Birmingham Tame and Rea Main Sewerage District and to Leeds and Wolverhampton. (Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 15).)

P cxcvii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1899 to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts. (Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London).)

P cxcviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council Tramways Huddersfield Corporation Tramways Hurst Urban District Council Tramways Kearsley Urban District Council Tramways Prestwich Urban District Council Tramways Reddish Urban District Council Tramways and Wigan Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).)

P cxcix. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bedford Corporation Tramways Bootle Corporation Tramways Radcliffe Urban District Council Tramways St. Helens Corporation Tramways and Warwick Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).)

P cc. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Batley Corporation Tramways Camborne and Redruth Tramway East Ham Urban District Council Tramways Hull Corporation Tramways Middleton Corporation Tramways Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways and Southampton Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3).)

P cci. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation Tramways Garston Tramway Gorton Urban District Council Tramways Plymouth Corporation Tramways Taunton Tramways and Warrington Corporation Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P ccii. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the Improvement of a certain Area situated in the Parish of St. Marylebone in the County of London. (London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P cciii. An Act to Confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 relating to Paisley Waterworks. (Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P cciv. An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Secretary for Scotland under Part I. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 relating to the City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh. (Edinburgh Improvement Scheme Provisional Order Confirmation.)

P ccv. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to Dublin and Belfast. (Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4).)

P ccvi. An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London Bristol Ilford Sheffield and Southampton for the Public Service and for other purposes. (Post Office (Sites).)

P ccvii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts 1882 and 1888 relating to Battersea Limehouse Mile End Old Town and St. George-in-the-East. (Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 10).)

P ccviii. An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act 1870 relating to Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Houghton-le-Spring and District Tramways Liverpool Corporation Tramways Extensions Portsmouth Corporation Tramways Rothesay Tramways Weston-super-Mare Tramways and Whitefield Urban District Council Tramways. (Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 5).)

ccix. An Act to authorise the North British Railway Company to construct certain new railways widenings and other works to confer further powers upon the Company and upon other Companies in connection with their respective undertakings to amalgamate the Aberlady Gullane and North Berwick Railway Company the Newport Railway Company and the Eyemouth Railway Company with the Company to transfer to and vest in the Company the undertaking of the Borrowstounness Harbour Commissioners to enable the Burntisland Harbour Commissioners to borrow and the Company to advance them further money to authorise the Company to enter into working and other agreements with the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Company to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (North British Railway (General Powers).)

ccx. An Act for authorising the Costa Rica Railway Company Limited to borrow further moneys and to make provision in reference thereto and for other purposes. (Costa Rica Railway Company Limited.)

ccxi. An Act to authorise the Blackpool St Anne's and Lytham Tramways Company Limited to construct tramways in substitution for their existing tramways in the County Palantine of Lancaster and for other purposes. (Blackpool St. Anne's and Lytham Tramways.)

ccxii. An Act to authorise the East London Waterworks Company to construct additional storage reservoirs and other works to take further water from the River Thames in cases of exceptional drought and other emergency to raise further money and for other purposes. (East London Waterworks.)

ccxiii. An Act to authorise the Urban District Council of Ilfracombe in the County of Devon to construct additional waterworks for the supply of their district and the parishes of Berrynarbor Combe Martin and Morthoe and to make further and better provision for the improvement health local government and finance of the district and for other purposes. (Ilfracombe Improvement.)

ccxiv. An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company for the construction of works and acquisition of lands in Wales and for other purposes. (London and North Western Railway (Wales).)

ccxv. An Act for empowering the London and North Western Railway Company to construct works and for conferring further powers upon that Company in relation to their own undertaking and upon that Company and the Great Western Railway Company and the Great Central Railway Company in relation to their joint undertakings and for other purposes. (London and North Western Railway.)

ccxvi. An Act to regulate the expenditure of money by the London County Council on capital account during the current financial period and the raising of money to meet such expenditure. (London County Council (Money).)

ccxvii. An Act to amend and extend the Memorandum of Association of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Company Limited with reference to the acquisition of railways and for other purposes. (Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway.)

ccxviii. An Act to authorise the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Ipswich to construct tramways and street improvements and for other purposes. (Ipswich Corporation (Tramways, &c.).)

ccxix. An Act to empower the London County Council to make a tunnel or subway under the River Thames between Rotherhithe and Ratcliff and approaches thereto and for other purposes connected therewith. (Thames Tunnel (Rotherhithe and Ratcliff).)

ccxx. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Salford to make street improvements to construct sewers and to raise additional moneys by mortgage and by the creation and issue of stock and to make further provisions for the good government of the borough. (Salford Corporation.)

ccxxi. An Act to empower the Urban District Council for the District of Withington to construct tramways and to make various street improvements and for other purposes. (Withington Urban District Council.)

ccxxii. An Act to extend the boundaries of the City of Sheffield to consolidate certain of the Townships within the said City to empower the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the said City to construct additional lines of tramways and to execute various street widenings and other works to make further and better provision for the improvement health and good government of the City and for other purposes. (Sheffield Corporation.)

ccxxiii. An Act to authorise the Clontarf Urban District Council to construct a sea wall to acquire lands to borrow moneys and for other purposes. (Clontarf Urban District Council.)

ccxxiv. An Act to authorise the Lord Provost Magistrates and Town Council of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen to make certain bridge and street improvements to confer upon them new powers with respect to police matters streets and buildings and for other purposes. (Aberdeen Police and Improvement.)

ccxxv. An Act to confer further powers upon the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Company. (Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.)

ccxxvi. An Act to authorise the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Bradford in the County of York to construct additional tramways in and near the City to acquire lands for the protection of their water supply to purchase the undertaking of the North Bierley Gas Company to make further provision for the health and good government of the City and for other purposes. (Bradford Corporation (Tramways Gas and Various Powers).)

ccxxvii. An Act to empower the Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation Limited to construct a generating station in the Parish of West Ham and to lay mains connecting their generating stations and to acquire lands and to construct a short line of railway and for other purposes. (Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (Further Powers).)

ccxxviii. An Act to empower the Corporation of the City of London to acquire and maintain Finsbury Circus Gardens as an open space and to purchase lands for various purposes and to adopt and apply the Baths and Washhouses Acts to establish a crematorium at Ilford Cemetery to make further and better accommodation for the laying of pipes wires and other apparatus in over or under streets to confer further powers upon the Corporation with respect to the control of streets and structures across streets and the fixing of apparatus for public lighting in streets to make further provisions for the health and good government of the City to enable persons elected to Corporate Offices in the City to retire therefrom to empower the Corporation to borrow money and for other purposes. (City of London (Various Powers).)

ccxxix. An Act to authorise the Corporation of Croydon to construct additional tramways and to work the tramways in the borough to execute certain street improvements to make further provision for the government and for the preservation of the health of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Croydon and for other purposes. (Croydon Corporation.)

ccxxx. An Act to transfer certain public bridges in the parish of Crosthwaite in the County of Cumberland to the Cumberland County Council and other authorities and for other purposes. (County of Cumberland (Bridges).)

ccxxxi. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the County of Durham Electric Power Supply Company and for other purposes. (County of Durham Electric Power Supply.)

ccxxxii. An Act to extend the City and County of the City of Exeter to unite the parishes within the City into one parish to authorise the reconstruction of the Exe Bridge and the construction of certain street works and for other purposes. (Exeter Corporation.)

ccxxxiii. An Act to empower the Urban District Council of Farnworth to construct additional tramways and to work tramways and to make further provision for the good government of the said district and for other purposes. (Farnworth Urban District Council.)

ccxxxiv. An Act to extend the boundaries of the County Borough of Halifax and to empower the Corporation to construct additional tramways street widenings and improvements to confer further powers with respect to their waterworks undertaking and in regard to street buildings and drains and for the health local government and improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Halifax Corporation.)

ccxxxv. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Lancashire Electric Power Company. (Lancashire Electric Power.)

ccxxxvi. An Act to empower the Corporation of Lancaster to construct tramways to widen streets and make a footbridge over the River Lune to deal with Lancaster Marsh to commute portions of the Vicar of Lancaster's tithe and dues to make further provisions for the good government of the Borough and for other purposes. (Lancashire Corporation.)

ccxxxvii. An Act for authorising the Corporation of the City of Liverpool to execute certain street improvements for making further provisions for the protection of the public health for amending various local Acts in force within the City for authorising the Corporation to raise money by the issue of bills and for other purposes. (Liverpool Corporation.)

ccxxxviii. An Act to enable the London County Council to work their tramways by electrical power and for other purposes. (London County Tramways (Electrical Power).)

ccxxxix. An Act for incorporating and making better provisions for the meetings and proceedings of the Trustees of the Market Weighton Drainage and Canal in the East Riding of the County of York for better defining the lands subject to taxation by the said Trustees and making other provisions relative thereto for relieving the said Trustees from their obligations to maintain a part of the said canal for conferring further powers on the said Trustees and for other purposes. (Market Weighton Drainage.)

ccxl. An Act to confer further powers upon the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Company Limited for the construction of works and the supply of electrical energy and for other purposes. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electrical Supply Company's).

ccxli. An Act to empower the Corporation of Oldham to extend and improve their existing Market Hall to confer further powers upon the Corporation with regard to sanitary and other matters and to make better provision for the health local government and improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Oldham Corporation.)

ccxlii. An Act for extending the limits of supply of and conferring further powers upon the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and for other purposes. (Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water.)

ccxliii. An Act to incorporate the South Lancashire Tramways Company and to empower that Company to make tramways and street improvements and for other purposes, (South Lancashire Tramways.)

ccxliv. An Act to convert the capital of the Wandsworth and Putney Gaslight and Coke Company to raise additional capital to construct works and for other purposes. (Wandsworth and Putney Gas.)

ccxlv. An Act to confer powers upon the Corporation of the County Borough of West Bromwich with respect to tramways and to their electric lighting and other undertakings to make further provision for the improvement and good government of the borough to amend and extend the provisions of the Local Acts relating to the borough and for other purposes. (West Bromwich Corporation.)

ccxlvi. An Act to confer further powers upon the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the County Borough of West Ham and to make further provision for the good government of that borough and for other purposes. (West Ham Corporation.)

ccxlvii. An Act for amalgamating the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Company with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and for other purposes. (Great Southern and Western and Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation.)

ccxlviii. An Act for amalgamating the undertaking of the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Company with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and for other purposes. (Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation.)

ccxlix. An Act to confer further powers on the Caledonian Railway Company in relation to their undertaking to authorise the Lochearnhead St. Fillans and Comrie Railway Company to construct certain works in connexion with their Railway to extend the periods for the purchase of lands for or for the completion of works by the before-mentioned Companies and the Callander and Oban Railway Company and for other purposes. (Caledonian Railway.)

ccl. An Act to make provision in regard to the water undertaking of the Corporation of Margate to authorise the Corporation to construct promenades sea-walls street improvements and other works and to make further provision in regard to the health local government improvement and finance of the borough and for other purposes. (Margate Corporation.)

ccli. An Act for empowering the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Company to acquire additional lands to raise additional capital and for other purposes. (Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.)

cclii. An Act for the abandonment of the London Walthamstow and Epping Forest Railway and for other purposes. (London Walthamstow and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment).)

ccliii. An Act for the abandonment of the Muirkirk Mauchline and Dalmellington Railways. (Muirkirk Mauchline and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment).)

ccliv. An Act to make further provision for the purchase of the Hemel Hempsted Waterworks undertaking by the Corporation of Hemel Hempsted and for other purposes. (Hemel Hempsted Corporation Water.)

cclv. An Act to extend the borrowing powers of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Morley and to make further provision in regard to their water and electrical undertakings and for the improvement and good government of the said borough and for other purposes. (Morley Corporation.)

cclvi. An Act to enable the South Eastern Railway Company to make new railways and other works to acquire additional lands to provide for the application of capital of the South Eastern and London Chatham and Dover Railway Companies and for other purposes. (South Eastern and London Chatham and Dover Railway Companies.)

cclvii. An Act to confer further powers on the Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Company. (Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway.)

cclviii. An Act to empower the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Sunderland to contribute towards the construction by the North Eastern Railway Company of a bridge and road across the River Wear and to make provision for the construction of a new road in Southwick to join the same and for other purposes. (Sunderland Corporation.)

cclix. An Act to constitute a body of trustees for the purpose of acquiring the Alexandra Park Palace and other lands in the County of Middlesex and to empower them to hold and manage the same as a place of public resort and recreation and for other public purposes and to make all provisions necessary or proper in that behalf. (Alexandra Park and Palace (Public Purposes).)

cclx. An Act to empower the Bray and Enniskerry Railway Company to work their authorised railway by electrical power and for other purposes. (Bray and Enniskerry Railway.)

cclxi. An Act to empower the Poole and District Electric Traction Company Limited to construct tramways from Christchurch to Bournemouth and for other purposes. (Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways.)

cclxii. An Act to empower the Corporation of Coventry to make certain street works and to confer further powers on them in regard to streets buildings and sewers and the health local government and improvement of the City and for other purposes. Coventry Corporation.)

cclxiii. An Act to confer powers upon the Corporation of the Borough of Devonport with respect to the construction and working of tramways within the Borough for extending the powers of the said Corporation as to electric lighting for extending the boundaries of the said borough to make provision for the acquisition of the Devonport Market Undertaking to confer further powers upon the said Corporation with respect to streets and other matters and in regard to the health local government and improvement of the said borough to make further provision for the collection and recovery of rates for the borrowing of money and for other purposes. (Devonport Corporation.)

cclxiv. An Act to enter the City of Dublin and for other purposes. (Dublin Corporation.)

cclxv. An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland). (Great Northern Railway (Ireland).)

cclxvi. An Act to confer further powers on the Corporation of the County Borough of Hastings with respect to the improvement and good government of the borough to amend and extend provisions of the Local Acts and for other purposes. (Hastings Corporation.)

cclxvii. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Huddersfield to construct additional tramways in and adjacent to the borough and for other purposes, (Huddersfield Corporation Tramways.)

cclxviii. An Act to enable the London County Council to purchase lands for various purposes to provide for contributions by the Council and certain Vestries and District Boards of Works towards the acquisition of land for open spaces to extend the time limited for the purchase of certain lands by the Council to confer powers on the Vestry of Saint Mary Battersea as to the "Latchmere Allotments" and lands for an electric station and for other purposes. (London County Council (General Powers).)

cclxix. An Act to empower the London County Council to make an extension of the Thames Embankment and a new street and improvements at Westminster to widen Mare Street Hackney and to make other street improvements and works in the Administrative County of London and for other purposes. (London County Council (Improvements).)

cclxx. An Act to enable the London County Council to construct new tramways and to reconstruct and alter certain tramways in the County of London and to work certain tramways by electric traction and for other purposes. (London County Tramways.)

cclxxi. An Act for conferring further powers on the London United Tramways Limited for constructing Tramways and widening and altering roads in the County of Middlesex and for other purposes. (London United Tramways.)

cclxxii. An Act for regulating the charges to be made by the Gas Light and Coke the the South Metropolitan Gas and the Commercial Gas Companies in the Administrative County of London in respect of gas supplied by means of prepayment meters. (Metropolis Gas (Prepayment Meter).)

cclxxiii. An Act for empowering the Metropolitan District Railway Company to erect a station for generating electrical energy and thereby work certain railways to acquire lands to extend the time for the completion of certain railways and compulsory purchase of lands to make certain provisions with rerespect to the Ealing and South Harrow and Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railways to raise further capital and for other purposes. (Metropolitan District Railway.)

cclxxiv. An Act for extending the limits of supply of the Mid-Kent Water Company and for conferring further powers on the Company for the construction of works the raising of capital and otherwise in relation to their undertaking. (Mid-Kent Water.)

cclxxv. An Act for making and maintaining railways in the counties of Down Armagh and Monaghan to be called the Newry Keady and Tynan Light Railway and for other purposes. (Newry Keady and Tynan Light Railway.)

cclxxvi. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company and for other purposes. (North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.)

cclxxvii. An Act to confer further powers upon the Plymouth Stonehouse and Devonport Tramways Company to amend the Acts relating to that Company and for other purposes. (Plymouth Stonehouse and Devonport Tramways.)

cclxxviii. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Rochdale to reconstruct the existing tramways in the said borough when acquired by them and to construct additional tramways in and adjacent to the borough and to make further provisions for the good government of the borough and for other purposes. (Rochdale Corporation.)

cclxxix. An Act to empower the Corporation of Scarborough to make an Approach Road to the New Marine Drive to alter the line of the sea wall of the said Drive to make further and better provision for the improvement health and good government of the borough of Scarborough to alter the constitution of the Scarborough Harbour Commissioners and for other purposes. (Scarborough Corporation.)

cclxxx. An Act to empower the Southport District Tramroad Company to construct certain tramroads tramway and bridge between Southport and Lytham and for other purposes. (Southport and Lytham Tramroad.)

cclxxxi. An Act to enable the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Southport to carry out street improvements and other works and to make further provisions for the improvement and good government of the said borough and for other purposes. (Southport Corporation.)

cclxxxii. An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company. (South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company.)

cclxxxiii. An Act to make provision in regard to the water undertaking of the Corporation of the borough of Taunton and to the health local government improvement and finance of the said borough to empower the said Corporation and the Trustees of the Markets of the borough to erect a townhall and to make further provision in regard to the said markets and for other purposes. (Taunton Corporation.)

cclxxxiv. An Act to provide for vesting in the Urban District Council of Tottenham in the County of Middlesex the Lammas Lands in the district to confer various powers with respect to commons open spaces and recreation grounds streets buildings and other matters of local government and for other purposes. (Tottenham Urban District Council.)

cclxxxv. An Act to incorporate a Company and authorise them to acquire the Workington Harbour and Lonsdale Dock undertaking in the County of Cumberland and to construct a dock railways and works at Workington and for other purposes. (Workington Railways and Docks.)

cclxxxvi. An Act to authorise the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bournemouth to acquire certain lands within the parishes of Bournemouth Holdenhurst and Pokesdown and to appropriate regulate and manage the same as open spaces to confirm an agreement relating thereto and for other purposes. (Bournemouth Corporation.)

cclxxxvii. An Act to empower the Corporation of Walsall to construct tramways to extend their powers in regard to their gas undertaking to make further provision in regard to financial matters and for the improvement of the borough and for other purposes. (Walsall Corporation.)

cclxxxviii. An Act to authorise the Liverpool Overhead Railway Company to make certain new railways and for other purposes. (Liverpool Overhead Railway.)

cclxxxix. An Act for the abandonment of the Saint David's Railway and for other purposes. (Saint David's Railway.)

ROYAL ASSENT, 8th August 1900.

ccxc. An Act to incorporate the Kingscourt Keady and Armagh Railway Company and to empower them to construct railways in the counties of Cavan Monaghan and Armagh and for other purposes. (Kingscourt Keady and Armagh Railway.)

ccxci. An Act to authorise the Corporation of Manchester to construct additional tramways in and near the city and to confer further powers upon the Corporation and neighbouring authorities in respect of tramways within and beyond the city and for other purposes. (Manchester Corporation Tramways.)

PRIVATE ACT.

PRINTED BY THE QUEEN'S PRINTER, AND WHEREOF THE PRINTED COPIES MAY BE GIVEN IN EVIDENCE.

i. An Act to authorise the sale of the Chattels bequeathed and settled by the Will and Codicils of the late Sir William Augustus Fraser Bart. deceased and to declare the trusts of the proceeds of such sale and for other purposes. (Fraser Settled Chattels.)

PUBLIC BILLS DEALT WITH IN SESSION 1900.

*Those marked thus * are Government Bills.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Access to Mountains (Scotland) [39]	*Mr. Bryce*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Agricultural Holdings [121] [258] [293]	*Mr. Long*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Agricultural Holdings (No. 2) [141]	*Mr. Channing*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Ancient Monuments Protection [81]	*Lord Balcarres*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Architects' Registration [213]	*Mr. Atherley-Jones*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Army (Annual) [135]	*Mr. Wyndham*	*Royal Assent*, April 9.
Bakehouses (Hours of Labour) [76]	*Mr. Woods*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Bank Holiday Acts Amendment [175]	*Mr. Faithfull Begg*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland) [7]	*Mr. J. H. M. Campbell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland) (No. 2) [28]	*Mr. William Moore*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Boards of Guardians (Magistrates) [252]	*Sir Fortescue Flannery*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Boilers Registration and Inspection [1]	*Mr. Fenwick*	Motion for 2nd Reading withdrawn, Mar. 7.
Boilers Registration and Inspection (No. 2) [88]	*Sir William Houldsworth*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 21.
Boilers Registration and Inspection (No. 3) [107]	*Mr. Provand*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 8.
Borough Funds [46] [237]	*Sir Albert Rollit*	*Withdrawn*, July 20.
British Museum [Lords] [197]	*Mr. John Morley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Burial Grounds [143] [230]	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Burial Grounds (Loans) (Scotland) [266]	*Mr. John Morley*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Census (Great Britain) [93]	*Mr. Chaplin*	*Royal Assent*, Mar. 27.
*Census (Ireland) [120]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, April 9.
*Charitable Loans (Ireland) [105]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Cheap Trains [17]	*Mr. Schwann*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, May 16.
Cheap Trains (No. 2) [94]	*Mr. Woods*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Church Discipline [26]	*Mr. David MacIver*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Coal Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground) [109] [Changed to Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground)	*Sir Charles Dilke*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Coal Mines Regulation [40]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Coal Mines Regulation Acts Amendment [20]	*Mr. Barlow*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister) [31]	*Captain Jessel*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister) [Lords] [264]	*Captain Jessel*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Colonial Solicitors [123]	*Mr. Hedderwick*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
*Colonial Stock [Lords] [300]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Commonwealth of Australia Constitution [119] [262]	*Mr. Secretary Chamberlain*	*Royal Assent*, July 9.
*Companies [79] [304]	*Mr. Ritchie*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Companies Acts Amendment [59]	*Mr. Faithfull Begg*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Compensation for Damage to Crops [51]	*Mr. Jeffreys*	*Withdrawn*, July 17.
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) [ ]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Feb. 23.
*Consolidated Fund (No. 2)	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Mar. 27.
Convocations [323]	*Sir Richard Jebb*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Copyright [Lords] [295]	*Sir Richard Jebb*	*Withdrawn*, Aug 1.
Corporal Punishment [5]	*Mr. Wharton*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, Mar. 28.
County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London) [16] [272]	*Mr. Loder*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
County Councillors (Qualification of Women) (Scotland) [52]	*Mr. Douglas*	*Withdrawn*, May 24.
County Councils (Elections) Act (1891) Amendment [184]	*Sir John Dorington*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
County Courts [99]	*Mr. Monk*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*County Courts (Investment of Deposits) [Lords] [216]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*County Courts (Ireland) [Lords] [310]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Withdrawn*, July 26.
*County Surveyors (Ireland) [192]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Court of Criminal Appeal [162]	*Mr. Pickersgill*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Cremation [Lords] [ ]	-	*Brought from the Lords*, July 10.
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal [32]	*Mr. Pinkerton*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment [95]	*Mr. Weir*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Cruelty to Animals Acts Amendment [233]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity [239]	*Mr. H. D. Greene*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Customs Duties (Isle of Man) [250]	*Mr. Hanbury*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Diocesan Records [Lords] [290]	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Withdrawn*, July 19.
Diocesan Registration [Lords] [ ]	-	*Brought from the Lords*, July 20.
Distress Abolition and Substitution [60]	*Mr. Bartley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
District Councillors and Guardians (Term of Office) [108]	*Mr. Pretyman*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
*Dogs Regulation [125]	*Mr. Long*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
*Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) [83]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Education (School Attendance) (Scotland) [155]	*Captain Sinclair*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Education (Scotland [Lords] [244]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
Education of the Blind (Scotland) [231]	*Sir John Stirling-Maxwell*	*Withdrawn*, July 3.
Elections (Hours of Polling on Saturdays) [247]	*Mr. Flower*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Electoral Disabilities (Military Service) [106] [130]	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Royal Assent*, May 25.
Electric Lighting Act (1882) Amendment [89]	*Sir William Houldsworth*	*Withdrawn*, May 22.
*Elementary Education (146]	*Sir John Gorst*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man) [305]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey) [306]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Employers and Workmen Law Amendment [178]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) [11]	*Mr. Crean*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, Feb. 21.
Executors (Scotland) [166] [273]	*Mr. Thomas Shaw*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Expiring Laws Continuance [311]	*Mr. Hanbury*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Factories and Workshops [111]	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
Factories and Workshops Amendment and Consolidation [87]	*Mr. Caldwell*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Factory and Workshop Act (1878) Amendment [80]	*Mr. Harwood*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 23.
Factory and Workshop Act (1878) Amendment (No. 2) [142]	*Mr. Harwood*	*Withdrawn*, July 18.
*Finance [115] [159]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, April 9.
Fire Brigades [24]	*Mr. Pym*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Fisheries (Ireland) Acts Amendment [132]	*Mr. Seton-Karr*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities [58]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Friendly Societies Disqualification Removal [56]	*Mr. Strachey*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Grocers' Licences (Scotland) Abolition [187]	*Sir John Leng*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Highways and Bridges Act (1891) Amendment [82]	*Mr. Jeffreys*	*Withdrawn*, July 23.
*Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment [98] [268]	*Mr. Chaplin*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Housing of the Working Classes [72]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Housing of the Working Classes (Rural Districts) [75]	*Sir Walter Foster*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Imbeciles (Training Institutions) [27]	*Mr. Tomlinson*	*Withdrawn*, May 2.
*Imitation of County Court Process [Lords] [301]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 1.
Incest [136]	*Colonel Dalbiac*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Industrial Schools [151]	*Mr. Flower*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Inebriates Amendment (Scotland) [Lords] [149]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Intermediate Education (Ireland) [210] [315]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Intoxicating Liquors (Local Veto) (Ireland) [55]	*Mr. William Johnston*	*Withdrawn*, June 20.
*Irish Education [209]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Withdrawn*, July 19.
Isolation Hospitals (Amendment) [Lords] [188]	*Lord E. Fitzmaurice*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Jurors' Expenses [217]	*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Jurors' Payment [251]	*Sir Fortescue Flannery*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Justices of the Peace [232]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Land Charges [Lords] [118] [208]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Land Dedication [101]	*Sir John Brunner*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Land Registers (Scotland) [322]	*The Lord Advocate*	2nd Reading, Fri. Aug. 10.
*Land Registry (New Buildings) [152]	*Mr. Akers-Douglas*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Land Values Taxation (Scotland) [66]	*Sir Charles Cameron*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act (1854) Amendment [54]	*Mr. M'Crae*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Larceny Act (1861) Amendment [267]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, Aug 1.
Leasehold Enfranchisement (England and Wales) [44]	*General Laurie*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Licensing Acts Amendment (Scotland) [85]	*Mr. Colville*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland) [74]	*Mr. Provand*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto [50]	*Sir Wilfrid Lawson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) [63]	*Mr. John Wilson (Govan)*	*Withdrawn*, July 23.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Wales) [67]	*Mr. Herbert Roberts*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation [84]	*Major Rasch*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment (London) [302]	*Mr. Herbert Robertson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Local Government (Ireland) [259]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) [260]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment [18]	*Mr. Tully*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, Feb. 14.
Local Government (Scotland) [13]	*Mr. Nicol*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd reading [*Dropped*].
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment [110]	*Mr. Edmund Robertson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment (No. 2) [154]	*Captain Sinclair*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment (No. 3) [168]	*Mr. Alexander Cross*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) [19]	*Mr. Lough*	Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to the Standing Committee on Law, etc., Wed. August 8.
*Lunacy [Lords] [119]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
*Lunacy Board (Scotland) Salaries and Clerks [92]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Withdrawn*, Feb. 28.
*Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, etc.) [140]	*The Lord Advocate*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Lunacy Regulation (Ireland([Lords] [ ]		*Brought from the Lords* July 12.
Manhood Suffrage (Ireland) [37]	*Mr. Field*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Medical Act (1858) Extension [347]	*General Laurie*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Medical Acts Amendment [296]	*Sir Richard Jebb*	*Withdrawn*, Aug. 1.
Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors [181]	*Dr. Farquharson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Members of Local Authorities Relief [Lords] [313]	*Mr. Wilson-Todd*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment [145]	*Mr. Field*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and Others [3] [167]	*Sir Donald Currie*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Midwives [8] [150]	*Mr. Tatton Egerton*	Adjourned Debate on Motion for consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee on Law, etc-, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Military Lands [Lords] [285]	*Mr. Wyndham*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Military Manœuvres [Lords] [275]	*Mr. Wyndham*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
Mines (Eight Hours) [6]	*Mr. Herbert Lewis*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, Feb. 28.
*Money-Lending [Lords] [156] [312]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Naval Reserve [303]	*Mr. Macartney*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
*Naval Reserve (Mobilisation) [126]	*Mr. Macartney*	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Non-County Boroughs [270]	*Sir Joseph Leese*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Occupying Tenants' Enfranchisement [42]	*Mr. Bartley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Oil in Tobacco [298]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Old Age Pensions [23]	*Sir Fortescue Flannery*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Old Age Provident Pensions [61]	*Mr. Bartley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Outdoor Provident Relief [62]	*Mr. Bartley*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) [15]	*Mr. Galloway*	*Withdrawn*, Mar. 7.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2) [34]	*Mr. Strachey*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Palatine Court of Durham [Lords] [157]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Withdrawn*, July 17.
Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes [103]	*Sir Cameron Gull*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) [35]	*Mr. Faithfull Begg*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Parliamentary Voters and Elections [297]	*Captain Sinclair*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Petroleum [127]	*Mr. Ure*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Petty Customs Abolition (Scotland) [153]	*Captain Sinclair*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Police Reservists (Allowances) [91]	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Royal Assent*, May 25.
Poor Relief (Ireland) [261]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Poor Removal [176]	*Mr. T. W. Russell*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Post Office Sites [228] [274]	*Mr. Hanbury*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Prevention of Corruption [Lords] [ ]		*Brought from the Lords*, July 3.
Professional Accountants [112]	*Mr. Tomlinson*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Prohibition of Exportation of Arms [Lords] [314]	*Mr. Attorney-General*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Public Health [100]	*Mr. Thornton*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Public Health (Ireland) [191]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	*Royal Assent*, June 25.
Public Health Acts Amendment [48]	*Sir Alfred Hickman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Public Houses (Scotland) Later Opening [22]	*Colonel Denny*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Public Libraries [Lords] [245]	*Lord Balcarres*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Public Works (Loans) [280]	*Mr. Hanbury*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Public Worship Regulation Act [1874] Amendment [211]	*Mr. Henry David Greene*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Quarries [25] [220]	*Mr. Alfred Pease*	*Withdrawn*, July 26.
Railway and Canal Traffic Act (1888) Amendment [283]	*Sir Howard Vincent*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Railway and Canal Traffic Acts Amendment [308]	*Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Railways (Prevention of Accidents) [78] [198] [246]	*Mr. Ritchie*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Scotland) [139]	*Mr. Jesse Collings*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.
Registration of Electors [68]	*Mr. M'Kenna*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Registration of Firms [10]	*Mr. Emmott*	Reported without Amendment, from the Select Committee, July 17.
Reserve Forces [Lords] [276]	*Mr. Wyndham*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Rivers Pollution Prevention [124]	*Sir Francis Powell*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal [30]	*Mr. Flavin*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) [49]	*Sir Thomas Lea*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday [12]	*Mr. Robert Cameron*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children [33]	*Sir Joseph Leese*	*Withdrawn*, May 7.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) [38]	*Mr. Souttar*	Committee (*Progress*), Wed. Aug. 8.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) [133]	*Mr. Cameron Corbett*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) Acts Amendment [131]	*Mr. Seton-Karr*	Adjourned Debate on Motion for Committal to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc. [*Dropped*].
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies [212]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
School Board Elections (London) [104]	*Mr Flower*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
School Board Electorate (Scotland) [96]	*Mr. Weir*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Sea Fisheries [144]	*Mr. Ritchie*	Reported without Amendment from the Select Committee, July 19.
Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act (1895) Amendment [86]	*Sir William Wedderburn*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Separate Assessment of Land [200]	*Mr. Billson*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sewage and Drainage (Local Authorities) [193]	*Mr. Stephens*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment [161]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Shop Hours Acts Amendment [117]	*Mr. Provand*	*Withdrawn*, June 27.
Shops [57]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Smaller Dwellings (Scotland) [169]	*Mr Alexander Cross*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) [77]	*Mr. Jonathan Samuel*	*Withdrawn*, June 27.
Street Noises [21]	*Mr. Jacoby*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) [2]	*Mr. Spicer*	Committee (*Progress*), Wed. Aug. 8.
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment [53] [291]	*Mr. Herbert Roberts*	As amended by the Standing Committee on Law, etc., to be considered, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Supplemental War Loan [318]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Teachers of Music Registration [309]	*Mr. Sidebotham*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Teinds (Scotland) [113]	*Mr. Nicol*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Temperance Reform (Threefold Option) (Scotland) [170]	*Mr. Parker Smith*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Tenant Farmers (Sporting Rights) [235]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Tenants in Towns Improvement (Ireland) [29]	*Mr. Macaleese*	*2nd Reading put off for six months*, April 4.
Tied Houses [321]	*Mr. Broadhurst*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
*Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) [97]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Town Councils (Scotland) [36] [265]	*Mr. Asher*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Town Holdings [180]	*Mr. Hazell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment [238]	*Mr. Harrington*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 8.
Truck Acts Amendment [116]	*Mr. Broadhurst*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Trustee Savings Banks [69]	*Sir Albert Rollit*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Trust Funds [134]	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Uganda Railway [182]	*Mr. Brodrick*	*Royal Assent*, June 25.
Union of Benefices Act (1860) Amendment [Lords] [ ]	- - - - -	*Brought from the Lords*, July 6.
University of Wales (Graduates) [179]	*Mr. Brynmor Jones*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Urban District Councils [269]	*Sir John William Maclure*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Vaccination [163]	*Mr. Pickersgill*	2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Vagrants' Children Protection [64]	*Mr. Drage*	Adjourned Debate on 2nd Reading, Wed. Aug. 8.
Veterinary Surgeons Amendment [128]	*Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael*	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Voluntary Schools (Grants in Aid) [65]	*Mr. Lawrence*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*Volunteers [Lords] [286]	*Mr. Wyndham*	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Wages Boards [102]	*Sir Charles Dilke*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
*War Loan [114]	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	*Royal Assent*, March 27.
Waste Lands Afforestation (Ireland) [43]	*Mr. Engledew*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Watermen's Certificates [41]	*Mr. Steadman*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Water Supply [45]	*Mr. Cornwallis*	*Withdrawn*, June 26.
Weights and Measures [183]	*Mr. Bousfield*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Wild Animals Protection [234]	*Mr. Luttrell*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Wild Birds Protection [281] - - -	*Mr. Bigwood* - -	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Wine and Beerhouse Acts Amendment [73]	*Mr. Herbert Lewis*	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment [4]	*Colonel Chaloner* -	*Withdrawn*, April 4.
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No. 2) [9]	*Mr. Giles* - - -	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No. 3) [47]	*Mr. Woods* - -	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension [14] [165] [257]	*Mr. Harry Foster* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Workmen's Houses Tenure [90] - -	*Mr. Colville* - -	2nd Reading [*Dropped*].
Youthful Offenders [Lords] [189] - -	*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley*	*Withdrawn*, July 16.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

Provisional Orders when reported not confirmed or not proceeded with are printed in Italics.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order [288]	*The Lord Advocate* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Brighton and Preston United District, &c.) [Lords] [Brighton and Preston United District, Liverpool, Plymouth, Salford, and Willesden] [236]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) [Lords] [279]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Basingstoke, Erdington, Farnham, Felixstowe and Walton, Leek, Littleborough, Maryport, Nantwich, Ormskirk, and Penrith] [137]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, June 25.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Brierley Hill Cleethorpes-with-Thrunscoe, Elland, Exmouth, Newark, Penzance, Prestwich, Redcar, Sowerby Bridge, and Whitefield] [138]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, May 25.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Allerton, Much Woolton, Little Woolton, and Childwall, Barnet, Barnstaple, Birkenhead (Extension), Bonchurch, Boston, Brierfield, Egremont, Hyde, and Sudbury] [160]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royul Assent*, June 25.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Bredbury and Romiley, Bridlington, Cheadle and Gatley, Hebburn, Kendal, Long Eaton, Lytham, Ormesby, Sleaford, and Tunstall (with Golden Hill and Chell] [171]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, June 25.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Bishop Auckland, Caterham (with Warlingham), Cowpen, Grantham, Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton, Ogmore Valley, Redruth, St. Helen's (Isle of Wight), South Blyth, and Weighbridge] [172]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, June 25.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) [Lords] [Barmouth, Brecon, Clacton, Cleckheaton, Hythe, Liversedge, Llandilo, Ramsgate, Romford, and Sandgate] [255]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) [Lords] [Berwick-upon-Tweed, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Malton, Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Limited, Newhaven, Seaford, Thirsk, Totnes, Witney and Woking] [277]	- - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) [Lords] [Broughty Ferry, Dunblane, and Wormit and Woodhaven] [256]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Barnard Castle, Cheltenham (Extension), Freshwater and Totland District, extension of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Lighting Order, 1893, to Gosforth, Jarrow, Llanrwst, Pwllheli, Royal Leamington Spa, Twickenham, and Wallington [194]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Battersea, Limehouse, Mile End Old Town, and Saint George-in-the-East] [201]	*Mr. Ritchie* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No 11) [Marylebone] [202]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*2nd Reading put off for three months*, July 3.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12) [Banbury, Dartmouth, Gosport and Alverstoke, Heston and Isleworth, Sevenoaks, Sheerness, Spennymoor, Staines, Egham, and Chertsey, Stamford, Uxbridge and District, Wellingborough] [222]	*Mr. Ritchie* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [Lords] [Hoylake and West Kirby, Manningtree and Mistley (Essex), South Elmsall, South Kirkby and North Elmsall, Steyning and District] [227]	- - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
*Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [Lords] [Abergele, Irthlingborough, Littlehampton, Lymington, Mablethorpe and Sutton, and Romford] [263]	- - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
*Gas Order Confirmation (No. 2) [Lords] [Dungannon] [254]	- - - -	*2nd Reading put off for three months*, July 17.
*Gas Provisional Order [No. 3) (Wath-upon-Dearne and District] [185]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Leith Burgh Provisional Order [Lords] [158]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1] Accrington, Chipping Norton, Gosport and Alverstoke, Kingswinford (Rural), Newport Pagnell, and Wirral (Rural)] [148]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Dewsbury, Llandudno, Macclesfield, Manchester, Newton-in-Makerfield, Wigan] [164]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 18.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Aberavon, Burslem, the Chesterfield Gas and Water Board District, Colne, Fenton, and Kendal] [173]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Barnsley (Rural), Featherstone, Hambledon (Rural), Lutterworth (Rural), Orsett (Rural), St Helen's, Wigan, and the Wirral Joint Hospital District] [174]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 10.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Abergele and Pensarn, Bradford-on-Avon, Dorking (Rural), Haworth, Henley (Rural), Hove, Manchester, and Wokingham (Rural) [177]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No.6)[Atherton,Barmouth,Clitheroe, Leicester, Stafford, and Teignmouth] [195]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) [Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage District, Acton, Chester (Rural), Reigate, Weymouth (Rural), and Wigan (Rural)] [196]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) [Cuckfield (Rural), Leigh, Milford Haven, and Wallasey] [204]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Burton-upon-Trent, Dorchester, the Parts of Kesteven, Warrington, and Winchester] [205]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Harrogate, Heywood, Ripon, Rochdale, and Tunbridge Wells [215]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) [Barrow upon Soar (Rural), Bootle and Ongar (Rural), and the Doncaster and Mexborough and the Shepley and Shelley United Districts] [218]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) [Lancaster, Ossett, and Wakefield] [219]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) [Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury, Leyton, Shipley, and Sunderland] [221]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
ocal Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) [Gloucester, Northampton, and Torquay and Walton-upon-Trent Bridge] [226]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.
ocal Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) [Birmingham, Tame, and Rea Main Sewerage District, Leeds and Wolverhampton] [229]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) [Ilkeston and Rothwell (Northampton)] [190]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent,* July 10.
*Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) [Bath] [214]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) [Hursley Union and the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey] [203]	*Mr. T. W. Russell* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) [Westport] [129]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* July 10.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) [*Fethard* and Skibbereen] [147]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* July 10.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Urban Districts of Clones, Londonderry, Monaghan, Pembroke, Rathmines and Rathgar, and Wicklow, and the Rural Districts of Dungarvan and Rathdrum [223]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Dublin, Belfast, *Kingstown and Blackrock*] [240]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* Aug. 6.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) [Urban District of Navan and the Towns of Boyle and Newbridge] [224]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2) [Bray] [241]	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order [Saint James and Saint John, Clerkenwell, and Saint Andrew, Holborn] [206]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*London (Poplar) Provisional Order [Poplar and Bromley-by-Bow] [207]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*London (St. Luke) Provisional Order [248]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*London (Southwark) Provisional Order [249]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order [253]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* Aug. 6.
*Metropolitan Common Scheme (Petersham) Provisional Order [122]	*Mr. Long* - - -	*Royal Assent,* July 10.
*Metropolitan Police Provisional Order (St. Mary Stratford, Bow, East Molesey, and Clerkenwell] [70]	*Mr. Jesse Collings* -	*Royal Assent,* May 25.
*Military Lands Provisional Order [71] -	*Mr. Wyndham* -	*Royal Assent,* April 9.
*Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order [219]	*The Lord Advocate* -	*Royal Assent,* Aug. 6.
*Perth and Paisley Gas Provisional Orders [243]	*The Lord Advocate* -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Eastbourne, Ilfracombe, Lowestoft, and Portessie] [225]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent,* July 10.
*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2 [Ayr, Bridlington, Felixstowe, and Penryn [242]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent,* July 30.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [Lords] [Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council, Huddersfield Corporation, Hurst Urban District Council, Kearsley Urban District Council, Prestwich Urban District Council, Reddish Urban District Council, and Wigan Corporation [278]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [Lords] [Bedford Corporation, Bootle Corporation, Radcliffe Urban District Council, St. Helens Corporation, and Warwick] [287]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) [Lords] [Batley Corporation, Camborne and Redruth, East Ham Urban District Council, Hull Corporation, Middleton Corporation, Portobello and Musselburgh, and Southampton Corporation] [294]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) [Lords] [Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, Garston, Gorton Urban District Council, Plymouth Corporation, Taunton, and Warrington Corporation] [292]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Tramsways Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Bournemouth Corporation, Houghton-le-Spring and District, Liverpool, Corporation (Extensions), Portsmouth Corporation, Rothesay, Weston-super-Mare, and Whitefield Urban District Council] [186]	*Mr. Ritchie* - -	*Royal Assent*, Aug. 6.
*Water Orders Confirmation [Lords] [East Surrey, Hayling, Maidenhead, Sevenoaks, South-West Suburban, and Tonbridge] [271]	- - - - -	*Royal Assent*, July 30.

BILLS COMMITTED

TO

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, &c.

Midwives [8]. Reported Mar. 27.

Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners) [3]. Reported, April 3.

*Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) [83]. Reported May 8.

Town Councils (Scotland) [36]. Reported, June 22.

*Land Charges [Lords] [118]. Reported, May 15.

*Burial Grounds [143]. Reported, May 22.

Borough Funds [46]. Reported, May 25.

County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London) [16]. Reported, June 29.

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment [53]. Reported, July 10.

Veterinary Surgeons Amendment [128]. Reported, July 3.

Executors (Scotland) [166]. Reported, June 29.

*Elementary Education [146]. Reported, July 20.

*Money-lending [156]. Reported, July 24.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, &c.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension [14]. Reported, April 2.

*Railways (Prevention of Accidents) [78]. Reported, May 14.

*Agricultural Holdings [121]. Reported, June 21.

*Companies [79]. Reported, July 19.

*Money-lending [156]. Committed, June 26. [Order discharged and Bill committed to Standing Committee on Law, &c., July 12.]

PUBLIC BILLS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, Dated 31 July 1900; —*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PUBLIC BILLS, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1900; showing the Number which received the Royal Assent; the Number which were Passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the Number Passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House; and distinguishing the Stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were Dropped or Postponed and Rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.274, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

[SESSION 1900.]

BILLS WHICH RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

N.B.—Bills marked thus (*) are Government Bills.

TITLE OF BILL.

*Agricultural Holdings.
Ancient Monuments Protection.
*Army (Annual).

Beer Retailers and Spirit Grocers' Licences (No. 2).
*Burial Grounds.

*Census (Great Britain).
*Census (Ireland).
*Charitable Loans (Ireland).
Colonial Solicitors.
*Colonial Stock [*Lords*].
*Commonwealth of Australia Constitution.
*Companies.
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation).
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1).
*Consolidated Fund (No. 2).
County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London).
County Councils (Elections) Act (1891) Amendment.
*County Courts (Investment of Deposits) [*Lords*].
*County Surveyors (Ireland).
Cruelty to Wild Animals in Captivity.
*Customs Duties (Isle of Man).

District Councillors and Guardians (Term of Office).

*Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland).
*Electoral Disabilities (Military Service).
*Elementary Education.
*Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Isle of Man).

TITLE OF BILL.

*Elementary School Teachers' Superannuation (Jersey).
Executors (Scotland).
*Expiring Laws Continuance.

*Finance.

*Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment.

*Inebriates Amendment (Scotland) [*Lords*].
*Intermediate Education (Ireland).

*Land Charges [*Lords*].
*Land Registry (New Buildings).
*Local Government (Ireland).
*Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2).
*Lunacy Board (Scotland) (Salaries, &c.)

Members of Local Authorities Relief [*Lords*].
Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and Others).
*Military Lands [*Lords*].
Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground).
*Money Lending [*Lords*].

*Naval Reserve.
*Naval Reserve (Mobilisation).

*Oil in Tobacco.

*Police Reservists (Allowances).
*Poor Relief (Ireland).
*Poor Removal.
*Post Office Sites.
*Prohibition of Exportation of Arms [*Lords*]

Bills which received the Royal Assent—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.

*Public Health (Ireland).
*Public Works Loans.

*Railways (Prevention of Accidents).
*Reserve Forces [*Lords*].

*Supplemental War Loan.

*Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland).
Town Councils (Scotland)

TITLE OF BILL.

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment.
*Uganda Railway.

Veterinary Surgeons Amendment.
*Volunteers [*Lords*].

*War Loan.
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS WHICH RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

TITLE OF BILL.

*Edinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order.
*Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Brighton and Preston United District, &c.) [*Lords*] [Brighton and Preston United District, Liverpool, Plymouth, Salford, and Willesden].
*Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) [*Lords*].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Basingstoke, Erdington, Farnham, Felixstowe and Walton, Leek, Littleborough, Maryport, Nantwich, Ormskirk, and Penrith].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Brierley Hill, Cleethorpes-with-Thrunscoe, Elland, Exmouth, Newark, Penzance, Prestwich, Redcar, Sowerby Bridge, and Whitefield].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Allerton, Much Woolton, Little Woolton and Childwall, Barnet, Barnstaple, Birkenhead (Extension), Bonchurch, Boston, Brierfield, Egremont, Hyde, and Sudbury].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Bredbury and Romiley, Bridlington, Cheadle and Gatley, Hebburn, Kendal, Long Eaton, Lytham, Ormesby, Sleaford, and Tunstall (with Golden Hill and Chell)].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Bishop Auckland, Caterham (with Warlingham), Cowpen, Grantham, Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton, Ogmore Valley, Redruth, St. Helens (Isle of Wight), South Blyth, and Weybridge].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) [*Lords*] [Barmouth, Brecon, Clacton, Cleckheaton, Hythe, Liversedge, Llandilo, Ramsgate, Romford, and Sandgate].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) [*Lords*] [Berwick-upon-Tweed, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Malton, Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Limited, Newhaven, Seaford, Thirsk, Totnes, Witney and Woking].

TITLE OF BILL.

*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) [*Lords*] [Broughty Ferry, Dunblane, and Wormit and Woodhaven].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Barnard Castle, Cheltenham (Extension), Freshwater and Totland District, Extension of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Lighting Order, 1893, to Gosforth, Jarrow, Llanrwst, Pwllheli, Royal Leamington Spa, Twickenham, and Wallington].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Battersea, Limehouse, Mile End Old Town, and St. George-in-the-East].
*Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12) [Banbury, Dartmouth, Gosport and Alverstoke, Heston and Isleworth, Sevenoaks, Sheerness, Spennymoor, Staines, Egham and Chertsey, Stamford, Uxbridge and District, Wellingborough].

*Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [*Lords*] [Hoylake and West Kirby, Manningtree and Mistley (Essex), South Elmsall, South Kirkby and North Elmsall, Steyning and District].
*Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [*Lords*] [Abergele, Irthlingborough, Littlehampton, Lymington, Mablethorpe and Sutton, and Romford].
*Gas Provisional Order (No. 3) [Wath-upon-Dearne and District].

*Leith Burgh Provisional Order [*Lords*].
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Accrington, Chipping Norton, Gosport and Alverstoke, Kingswinford (Rural), Newport Pagnell, and Wirral (Rural)].
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Dewsbury, Llandudno, Macclesfield, Manchester, Newton-in-Makerfield, Wigan].
*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Aberavon, Burslem, the Chesterfield Gas and Water Board District, Colne, Fenton and Kendal].

Provisional Order Bills which received the Royal Assent—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Barnsley (Rural), Featherstone, Hambledon (Rural), Lutterworth (Rural), Orsett (Rural), St. Helens, Wigan, and the Wirral Joint Hospital District].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Abergele and Pensarn, Bradford-on-Avon, Dorking (Rural), Haworth, Henley (Rural), Hove, Manchester, and Wokingham (Rural)].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) [Atherton, Barmouth, Clitheroe, Leicester, Stafford, and Teignmouth].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) [Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage District, Acton, Chester (Rural), Reigate, Weymouth (Rural), and Wigan (Rural)].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) [Cuckfield (Rural), Leigh, Milford Haven, and Wallasey].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) [Burton-upon-Trent, Dorchester, the Parts of Kesteven, Warrington, and Winchester].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) [Harrogate, Heywood, Ripon, Rochdale, and Tunbridge Wells].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) [Barrow-upon-Soar (Rural), Bootle and Ongar (Rural), and the Doncaster and Mexborough and the Shepley and Shelley United Districts].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) [Lancaster, Ossett, and Wakefield].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) [Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury, Leyton, Shipley, and Sunderland].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) [Gloucester, Northampton, and Torquay and Walton-upon-Trent Bridge].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) [Birmingham, Tame, and Rea Main Sewerage District, Leeds and Wolverhampton].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) [Ilkeston and Rothwell (Northampton)].

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) [Bath].

*Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) [Hursley Union and the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) [Westport].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) [*Fethard* and Skibbereen].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) [Urban Districts of Clones, Londonderry, Monaghan, Pembroke, Rathmines and Rathgar, and Wicklow, and the Rural Districts of Dungarvan and Rathdrum].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) [Dublin, Belfast, *Kingstown and Blackrock*].

TITLE OF BILL.

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) [Urban District of Navan and the Towns of Boyle and Newbridge].

*Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2) [Bray].

*London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order [Saint James and Saint John, Clerkenwell, and Saint Andrew, Holborn].

*London (Poplar) Provisional Order [Poplar and Bromley-by-Bow].

*London (Saint Luke) Provisional Order.

*London (Southwark) Provisional Order.

*London (Saint Marylebone) Provisional Order.

*Metropolitan Common Scheme (Petersham) Provisional Order.

*Metropolitan Police Provisional Order [Saint Mary Stratford, Bow, East Molesey, and Clerkenwell].

*Military Lands Provisional Order.

*Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order.

*Perth and Paisley Gas Provisional Orders.

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) [Eastbourne, Ilfracombe, Lowestoft, and Portessie].

*Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) [Ayr, Bridlington, Felixstowe, and Penryn].

*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [*Lords*] [Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council, Huddersfield Corporation, Hurst Urban District Council, Kearsley Urban District Council, Prestwich Urban District Council, Reddish Urban District Council, and Wigan Corporation].

*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [*Lords*] [Bedford Corporation, Bootle Corporation, Radcliffe Urban District Council, St. Helens Corporation, and Warwick].

*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) [*Lords*] [Batley Corporation, Camborne and Redruth, East Ham Urban District Council, Hull Corporation, Middleton Corporation, Portobello and Musselburgh, and Southampton Corporation].

*Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 4) [*Lords*] [Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation, Garston, Gorton Urban District Council, Plymouth Corporation, Taunton, and Warrington Corporation].

*Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5) [Bournemouth Corporation, Houghton-le-Spring and District, Liverpool Corporation (Extensions), Portsmouth Corporation, Rothesay, Weston-super-Mare, and Whitefield Urban District Council].

*Water Orders Confirmation [*Lords*] [East Surrey, Hayling, Maidenhead, Sevenoaks, South-West Suburban, and Tonbridge].

Government Bills, 49 ; Provisional Order Bills, 60 ; other Bills, 15. - - TOTAL - - 124

BILLS WHICH WERE INTRODUCED INTO, BUT NOT PASSED BY, THE COMMONS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Access to Mountains (Scotland) - - -	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Agricultural Holdings (No. 2) - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Architects Registration - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Bakehouses (Hours of Labour) - - -	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Bank Holiday Acts Amendment - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland).	Second Reading dropped.
Boards of Guardians (Magistrates) - -	Second Reading dropped.
Boilers Registration and Inspection - -	Motion for Second Reading withdrawn.
Boilers Registration and Inspection (No. 2) -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Boilers Registration and Inspection (No. 3) -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Borough Funds - - - - - -	Order for Consideration as amended (by the Standing Committee) discharged.
Burial Grounds (Loans) (Scotland) - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Cheap Trains - - - - - - -	Second Reading put off for six months.
Cheap Trains (No. 2) - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Church Discipline - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Coal Mines Regulation - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Coal Mines Regulation Acts Amendment -	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister) -	Second Reading dropped.
Companies Acts Amendment - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Compensation for Damage to Crops - -	Order for Adjourned Debate on Second Reading discharged.
Convocations - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Corporal Punishment - - - - -	Second Reading put off for six months.
County Councillors (Qualification of Women) (Scotland).	Order for Second Reading discharged.
County Courts - - - - - -	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Court of Criminal Appeal - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act (1887) Repeal.	Second Reading dropped.
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Cruelty to Animals Acts Amendment - -	Second Reading dropped.
Distress (Abolition and Substitution) - -	Second Reading dropped.
*Dogs Regulation - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Education (School Attendance) (Scotland) -	Second Reading dropped.
Education of the Blind (Scotland) - - -	Order for Committee (Progress) discharged.
Elections (Hours of Polling on Saturdays) -	Second Reading dropped.
Electric Lighting Act (1882) Amendment -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Employers and Workmen Law Amendment -	Second Reading dropped.
Evicted Tenants (Ireland) - - - -	Second Reading put off for six months.
*Factories and Workshops - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Factories and Workshops Amendment and Consolidation.	Second Reading dropped.
Factory and Workshop Act (1878) Amendment.	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Factory and Workshop Act (1878) Amendment (No. 2).	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Fire Brigades - - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Fisheries (Ireland) Acts Amendment - -	Second Reading dropped.
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities.	Second Reading dropped.
Friendly Societies Disqualification Removal	Second Reading dropped.

Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, or REJECTED, &c.
Grocers' Licences (Scotland) Abolition	Second Reading dropped.
Highways and Bridges Act (1891) Amendment	Order for Committee (Progress) discharged.
Housing of the Working Classes	Second Reading dropped.
Housing of the Working Classes (Rural Districts).	Second Reading dropped.
Imbeciles (Training Institutions)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Incest	Second Reading dropped.
Industrial Schools	Second Reading dropped.
Intoxicating Liquors (Local Veto) (Ireland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Irish Education	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Jurors' Expenses	Second Reading dropped.
Jurors' Payment	Second Reading dropped.
Justices of the Peace	Second Reading dropped.
Land Dedication	Second Reading dropped.
*Land Registers (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Land Values Taxation (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act (1854) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
*Larceny Act (1861) Amendment	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Leasehold Enfranchisement (England and Wales).	Second Reading dropped.
Licensing Acts Amendment (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto	Second Reading dropped.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Wales)	Second Reading dropped.
Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation	Second Reading dropped.
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment (London).	Second Reading dropped.
Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment.	Second Reading put off for six months.
Local Government (Scotland)	Ajourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment (No. 2).	Second Reading dropped.
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment (No. 3).	Second Reading dropped.
London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal).	Motion for Committal to the Standing Committee on Law, &c., dropped.
*Lunacy Board (Scotland) Salaries and Clerks	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Manhood Suffrage (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Medical Act (1858) Extension	Second Reading dropped.
Medical Acts Amendment	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors	Second Reading dropped.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Midwives	Motion for Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee on Law, &c., dropped.
Mines (Eight Hours)	Second Reading put off for six months.
Non-County Boroughs	Second Reading dropped.
Occupying Tenants' Enfranchisement	Second Reading dropped.
Old Age Pensions	Motion for Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Old Age Provident Pensions	Second Reading dropped.
Outdoor Provident Relief	Second Reading dropped.
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies)	Order for Second Reading discharged.

Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, OR REJECTED, &c.
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2)	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes)	Second Reading dropped.
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).	Second Reading dropped.
Parliamentary Voters and Elections	Second Reading dropped.
Petroleum	Second Reading dropped.
Petty Customs Abolition (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Professional Accountants	Second Reading dropped.
Public Health	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Public Health Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Public Houses (Scotland) Later Opening	Second Reading dropped.
Public Worship Regulation Act (1874) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Quarries	Order for Committee discharged.
Railway and Canal Traffic Act (1888) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Railway and Canal Traffic Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
*Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Scotland).	Order for Second Reading dropped.
Registration of Electors	Second Reading dropped.
Registration of Firms	Reported without Amendment from the Select Committee.
Rivers Pollution Prevention	Second Reading dropped.
Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday	Second Reading dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2).	Committee (Progress) dropped.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland).	Second Reading dropped.
Salmon Fisheries (Ireland) Acts Amendment	Motion for Committal to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., dropped.
*Savings Banks and Friendly Societies	Order for Second Reading discharged.
School Board Elections (London)	Second Reading dropped.
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
*Sea Fisheries	Reported without Amendment from the Select Committee.
Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act (1895) Amendment.	Second Reading dropped.
Separate Assessment of Land	Second Reading dropped.
Sewage and Drainage (Local Authorities)	Second Reading dropped.
Shop Hours Act (1892) Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Shop Hours Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Shops	Second Reading dropped.
Smaller Dwellings (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge)	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Street Noises	Second Reading dropped.
Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire)	Committee (Progress) dropped.
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment.	Motion for consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee on Law, &c., dropped.
Teachers of Music Registration	Second Reading dropped.
Teinds (Scotland)	Second Reading dropped.
Temperance Reform (Threefold Option) (Scotland).	Second Reading dropped.
Tenant Farmers (Sporting Rights)	Second Reading dropped.
Tenants in Towns Improvement (Ireland)	Second Reading put off for six months.
Tied Houses	Second Reading dropped.
Town Holdings	Second Reading dropped

Bills which were Introduced into, but not Passed by, the Commons—*cont.*

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, OR REJECTED, &c.
Truck Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Trustee Savings Banks	Second Reading dropped.
Trust Funds	Second Reading dropped.
University of Wales (Graduates)	Second Reading dropped.
Urban District Councils	Second Reading dropped.
Vaccination	Second Reading dropped.
Vagrants' Children Protection	Adjourned Debate on Second Reading dropped.
Voluntary Schools (Grants in Aid)	Second Reading dropped.
Wages Boards	Second Reading dropped.
Waste Lands Afforestation (Ireland)	Second Reading dropped.
Watermen's Certificates	Second Reading dropped.
Water Supply	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Weights and Measures	Second Reading dropped.
Wild Animals Protection	Second Reading dropped.
Wild Birds Protection	Second Reading dropped.
Wine and Beerhouse Acts Amendment	Second Reading dropped.
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment.	Order for Second Reading dischaged.
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No. 2).	Second Reading dropped.
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No. 3).	Second Reading dropped.
Workmen's Houses Tenure	Second Reading dropped.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, OR REJECTED, &c.
*Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 11) [Marylebone].	Second Reading put off for 3 months.

Government Bills, 9; Provisional Order Bill, 1; other Bills, 147 - - - TOTAL - 157.

BILLS WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE LORDS, BUT NOT BY THE COMMONS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, OR REJECTED, &c.
British Museum - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister)	Second Reading dropped.
Copyright - - - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*County Courts (Ireland) - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Cremation - - - - - - -	Not read a first time.
*Diocesan Records - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Diocesan Registration - - - - -	Not read a first time.
*Education (Scotland) - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
*Imitation of County Court Process - -	Order for Committee discharged.
Isolation Hospitals (Amendment) - - -	Second Reading dropped.
*Lunacy - - - - - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Lunacy Registration (Ireland) - - -	Not read a first time.
*Military Manœuvres - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged
*Palatine Court of Durham - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.
Prevention of Corruption - - - -	Not read a first time.
Public Libraries - - - - - -	Second Reading dropped.
Union of Benefices Act (1860) Amendment -	Not read a first time.
*Youthful Offenders - - - - -	Order for Second Reading discharged.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

TITLE OF BILL.	Stage at which they were DROPPED, POSTPONED, OR REJECTED, &c.
Gas Order Confirmation (No. 2) [*Lords*] [Dungannon] - - - - - -	Second Reading put off for three months.

Government Bills, 8; Provisional Order Bill, 1; other Bills, 10 - - - Total - 19.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Total Number of Bills which received the Royal Assent:		
(1.) Introduced into this House - - - - -	54	
(2.) Brought from the Lords - - - - - -	10	
(3.) Provisional Order Bills - - - - - -	60	
		124
Total Number of Bills introduced into, but not passed by, the Commons		157
Total Number of Bills brought from the Lords, but not passed by the Commons - - - - - - - - - - - -		19
TOTAL - - -		300

Public Bill Office,
8 August, 1900.

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Return to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 31st July, 1900;—*for*,

RETURNS of the Number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for Confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons, and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1900, classed according to the following Subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalization; and Miscellaneous:

Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for Confirming Provisional Orders, which in the Session of 1900 have been reported on by Committees on Opposed Private Bills, or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection; together with the Names of the Selected Members who served on each Committee; the First and also the Last Day of the Sitting of each Committee; the Number of Days on which each Committee sat; the Number of Days on which each Selected Member has served; the Number of Days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Not Proved; and in the case of Bills for Confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be Confirmed:

Of all Private Bills and Bills for Confirming Provisional Orders, which, in the Session of 1900, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; together with the Names of the Members who served on each Committee; the Number of Days on which each Committee sat; and the Number of Days on which each Member attended:

And, of the Number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for Confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn, or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees, and dropped during the Sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.273, of Session I. of 1899).—(*Mr. Caldwell.*

INDEX of MEMBERS' NAMES, with a Reference to the GROUP or SELECT COMMITTEE on which they Served.

* *Indicates that the Member served on the Select Committee on Electric Power Bills, see page* 57.

† *Indicates that the Member served on the Select Committee on the Post Office Sites Bill, see page* 59.

‡ *Indicates that the Member served on the Joint Committee on the Dublin Corporation Bill and Clontarf Urban District Council Bill, see page* 60.

§ *Indicates that the Member served on the Joint Committee on the Railways (Ireland) Amalgamation Bills, see page* 60.

NAME.	GROUP OR SELECT COMMITTEE.
A.	
Acland-Hood, Sir A. - - -	K.
Ashton, Mr. - - - -	1. *
B.	
Baker, Sir J. - - - -	K.
Baldwin, Mr. - - - -	A.
Bartley, Mr. - - - -	*
Beaumont, Mr. - - - -	8.
Bemrose, Sir H. - - - -	P. & S. (A)
Bennett, Mr. L. - - - -	4.
Bethell, Captain - - -	F.
Bill, Mr. - - - - -	P. & S. (B)
Billson, Mr. - - - -	*
Blundell, Colonel - - -	A.
Brown, Mr. A. H. - - -	D.
Bullard, Sir H. - - - -	J.
C.	
Cameron, Mr. R. - - -	7.
Carew, Mr. - - - - -	5.
Carlile, Mr. - - - - -	G.
Carmichael, Sir T. Gibson - -	G.
Cawley, Mr. - - - -	E.
Cecil, Lord H. - - - -	†
Coghill, Mr. - - - -	J.
Colomb, Sir J. - - - -	†
Corbett, Mr. - - - -	7.
Cornwallis, Mr. - - - -	E.
Cotton-Jodrell, Colonel - -	6.
Crombie, Mr. - - - -	3.
D.	
Davies, Mr. Vaughan - - -	2.
Dewar, Mr. - - - - -	A.
Doogan, Mr. - - - -	F.
Douglas, Mr. C. - - - -	*
Drage, Mr. - - - - -	1.
E.	
Edwards, Mr. O. - - - -	3.
Egerton, Mr. A. de T. - -	5. 7.
Emmott, Mr. - - - -	B.

NAME.	GROUP OR SELECT COMMITTEE.
F.	
Fison, Mr. F. - - - - -	D.
Fitzmaurice, Lord E. - -	P. & S. (A)
Fletcher, Sir H. - - - -	H.
Flower, Mr. E. - - - -	7.
Foster, Colonel - - - -	3.
Fry, Mr. Lewis - - - -	E
G.	
Garfit, Mr. W. - - - -	3.
Godson, Sir A. - - - -	K.
Goulding, Mr. E. A. - - -	8.
Graham, Mr. - - - -	P. & S. (B)
Gull, Sir C. - - - -	G.
Gunter, Colonel - - - -	A. J.
Gurdon, Sir W. B. - - -	A.
H.	
Hanbury, Mr. - - - -	†
Harwood, Mr. - - - -	‡
Hayne, Mr. Seale - - -	4. 8.
Hazell, Mr. - - - -	§
Hoare, Sir S. - - - -	1.
Hobhouse, Mr. H. - - -	3.
Holland, Mr. W. H. - - -	7.
Hornby, Sir W. H. - - -	A.
Horniman, Mr. - - - -	G.
Houldsworth, Sir W. - - -	A.
Howard, Mr. J. - - - -	*
Hutton, Mr. A. - - - -	4.
J.	
Jameson, Major - - -	J.
Jeffreys, Mr. - - - -	2.
Johnson-Ferguson, Mr. - -	†
Johnstone, Mr. J. H. - -	P. & S. (B)
Jones, Mr. W. - - - -	8.
K.	
Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir U. - -	6. ‡
Kennaway, Sir J. - - -	*
Kinloch, Sir J. - - - -	E.
Kitson, Sir J. - - - -	*

INDEX of MEMBERS' NAMES, with a Reference to the GROUP or SELECT COMMITTEE on which they Served—*continued.*

NAME.	GROUP OR SELECT COMMITTEE.
L.	
Langley, Mr. B.	K.
Leighton, Mr. Stanley	B.
Leuty, Mr.	P. & S.
Long, Colonel	*
Lonsdale, Mr.	6.
Lowe, Mr.	7.
M.	
McIver, Sir Lewis	3. 8.
McKenna, Mr.	P. & S. (B)
M'Laren, Mr.	H.
Middlemore, Mr.	8.
Milward, Colonel	4.
Monckton, Mr.	6.
Montagu, Sir S.	§
Moon, Mr.	F.
Moore, Mr. A.	D.
Morley, Mr. Charles	6.
Morton, Mr. A.	2.
Morton, Mr. E.	H.
Mowbray, Sir R.	‡
Murnaghan, Mr.	D.
N.	
Nicholson, Mr. W.	8.
Nicol, Mr.	D.
Nussey, Mr.	*
O.	
O'Connor, Mr. J.	J.
Oldroyd, Mr.	B.
Orr-Ewing, Mr.	G.
P.	
Pierpoint, Mr.	§
Pilkington, Sir G.	A.
Purvis, Mr. R.	7.

NAME.	GROUP OR SELECT COMMITTEE.
R.	
Richardson, Mr. J.	†
Runciman, Mr.	P. & S. (A)
Rutherford, Mr.	D.
S.	
Sandon, Viscount	H.
Samuel, Mr.	3.
Schwann, Mr.	F.
Scoble, Sir A.	*
Seely, Mr. C.	8.
Sinclair, Captain	3.
Smith, Mr. Samuel	8.
Soames, Mr.	1.
Souttar, Mr.	J.
Sullivan, Mr. D.	A.
T.	
Tennant, Mr. H. J.	P.
Trevelyan, Mr.	D. E.
U.	
Usborne, Mr.	§
W.	
Warr, Mr.	8.
Wason, Mr.	5. P. & S. (B)
Wedderburn, Sir W.	2.
Welby, Colonel	5.
Whitmore, Mr.	‡
Whittaker, Mr.	H.
Wilson, Mr. H. J.	P. & S. (A)
Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)	H.
Wilson, Mr. J. W.	P. & S. (A)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T.	D.
Woods, Mr.	8.
Wrightson, Mr.	*
Wylie, Mr.	P. & S. (A)
Y.	
Yoxall, Mr.	J.

PRIVATE BILLS.

RETURN of the Number of ACTS passed in the Session of 1900, classed according to the following Subjects :—Railways ; Tramways ; Tramroads ; Subways ; Canals and Navigations ; Roads and Bridges ; Water ; Gas ; Gas and Water ; Improvement ; Police and Sanitary Regulations ; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations) ; Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks ; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds ; Markets and Fairs ; Gaols and other County Buildings ; Inclosure and Drainage ; Estate ; Divorce ; and Miscellaneous.

NUMBER OF PRIVATE BILLS WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT.

Railways	54
Tramways	26
Tramroads	3
Canals and Navigations	3
Roads and Bridges	3
Water	27
Gas	21
Gas and Water	3
Lighting and Improvement	3
Police and Sanitary	19
Corporations, &c. (*not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations, or to Lighting and Improvement Schemes*)	10
Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks	15
Market	1
Miscellaneous	43
TOTAL	231

Private Bill Office,
2 *August*, 1900.

JOHN H. SOMERSET,
Principal Clerk.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS.

RETURN of all the PRIVATE BILLS and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1900, have been reported on by COMMITTEES on Opposed Private Bills; together with the Names of the Selected Members who served on each Committee; the First and also the Last Day of the Sitting of each Committee; the Number of Days on which each Committee sat; the Number of Days on which each Selected Member has Served; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Proved; the Bills the Preambles of which were reported to have been Not Proved; and in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed; and the Bills Withdrawn, or not proceeded with by the Parties.

Note.—(*a.*) The Groups to which a Number is affixed, consist of Railway and Canal Bills; those to which a Letter is affixed, consist of Private Bills other than Railway and Canal Bills.

(*b.*) Particulars about the following Select Committees which deal exclusively with Private Business are to be found in the Select Committee's Return; Court of Referees, Standing Orders, Divorce Bills, and in the same Return particulars about the Committee of Selection, which is chiefly occupied with Private Business.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP 1.										
Sir Samuel Hoare (Chairman).	8	8	13 Mar.	22 Mar.	1. Southport Extension and Tramways.	3	15 Mar.			
Mr. Ashton - - - -	8				2. Stockport Corporation Tramways.	2	16 Mar.			
Mr. Drage - - - -	7				3. London County Tramways (No. 2).	4	22 Mar.			
Mr. Soames - - -	8									
GROUP 2.										
Mr. Jeffreys (Chairman) -	16	16	15 Mar.	6 Apr.	1. Huddersfield Corporation Tramways.	2	19 Mar.			
Sir William Wedderburn -	15				2. Lowestoft Railway - -	...	...	...	29 Mar.	
Mr. Arthur Morton (Deptford).	16				3. Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation.	1	23 Mar.			

Mr. Vaughan-Davies - -	16				4. Great Eastern Railway -	1	19 Mar.			
					5. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways.	1½	27 Mar.			
					6. Great Northern Railway -	1	21 Mar.			
					7. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.	2	3 Apr.			
					8. Hamilton, Motherwell, and Wishaw Tramways.	2½	30 Mar.			
					9. Midland Railway - -	1½	4 Apr.			
					10. Aberdeen Corporation Tramways.	3	6 Apr.			
Mr. Jeffreys (Chairman) -	1	1	22 May	22 May	1. Huddersfield Corporation Tramways (re-committed) Bill.	1	22 May	22 May		
Mr. Morton - - -	1									
Mr. Vaughan-Davies - -	1									
Sir William Wedderburn -	0									
GROUP 3.										
Mr. Hobhouse (Chairman) (discharged, 2nd April).	9	12	20 Mar.	6 Apr.	1. Reading Corporation (Tramways).	5	22 Mar.			
Mr. Jonathan Samuel (discharged, 28th March).	9				2. Wolverhampton, Essington, and Cannock Chase Junction Railway.	3	26 Mar.			
Mr. Garfit (discharged, 28th March).	9									
Mr. Crombie (discharged, 28th March).	9				3. Hastings Tramways - -	5	29 Mar.			
Sir Lewis M'Iver (added, as Chairman, 2nd April).	3				4. London and South-Western Railway.	–	–	–	–	Referred back, unopposed.
Captain Sinclair (Forfar) (added, 28th March).	3				5. St. David's Railway (Additional Powers).	–	–	–	–	
Colonel Foster (Lancaster) (added, 28th March).	3				6. Wellingborough and District Tramroads.	2	30 Mar.			
Mr. Owen Edwards (added, 28th March).	3				7. Great Western Railway -	3	6 Apr.			

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP 4.										
Mr. Seale-Hayne (Chairman).	11	11	1 May	15 May	1. South Lancashire Tramways Bill.	4	3 May			
Colonel Milward - -	11				2. London and North-Western Railway Bill.	5	11 May			
Mr. Alfred Hutton - -	11				3. London and North-Western Railway (Wales) Bill.	3	11 May			
Mr. Leigh Bennett - -	11				4. Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill.	4	15 May			
GROUP 5.										
Mr A. de Tatton Egerton (Chairman).	20	20	4 May	22 June	1. Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill.	13	24 May	–	–	Competing Bills.
Mr. Wason - - - -	20				2. Belfast and County Down Railway Bill.	12	19 June	–	–	
Colonel Welby - - -	20				3. Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill.	17	19 June	–	–	
Mr. Carew - - - -	20				4. Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill.	15	24 May	–	–	
					5. Bray and Enniskerry Railway Bill.	3	22 June			
GROUP 6.										
Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Chairman) (discharged, 4th May).	6	10	4 May	14 May	1. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.	4	3 May			
					2. London United Tramways -	3	7 May			
Colonel Cotton-Jodrell (appointed Chairman, 4th May).	10				3. South-Eastern Metropolitan Tramways.	3	9 May			
Mr. Charles Morley - -	10				4. Metropolitan District Railway.	3	14 May			
Mr. Lonsdale - - -	10									
Mr. Monckton - - -	5									

GROUP 7.										
Mr. W. H. Holland (Chairman) (discharged, 25th June).	9	13	22 May	2 July	1. London County Tramways (No. 1).	6	26 June			
Mr. Cameron Corbett (discharged, 23rd June).	3				2. Christchurch, Bournemouth, and Winton Tramways.	1	25 May			
Mr. Robert Cameron - -	12				3. Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways.	2	22 May			
Mr. Purvis (discharged, 23rd June).	9				4. Barry Railway (Steam Vessels) [H.L.].	3	–	2 July		
Mr. F. W. Lowe (added, 23rd June).	4				5. Tramways Provisional Orders (No. 5).	6	2 July			
Mr. Ernest Flower (added, 23rd June).	4									
Mr. de Tatton Egerton (added as Chairman, 25th June).	4									
GROUP 8.										
Sir Lewis M'Iver (Chairman) (discharged, 20th July).	12	18	5 July	31 July	1. Great Indian Peninsular Railway.	1	6 July	–	–	Mr. Seale-Hayne acted as Chairman from 24th July onwards.
Mr. Nicholson (discharged, 20th July).	11				2. Motherwell and Bellshill Railway.	8	16 July			
Mr. Samuel Smith (discharged, 20th July).	12				3. North - Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels).	2	17 July			
Mr. Woods (discharged, 17th July).	6				4. North - Eastern Railway [H.L.].	2	18 July			
Mr. Seale-Hayne (added, 24th July).	6				5. London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment).	1	18 July			
Mr. Seely (added, 24th July; discharged, 30th July).	4				6. Glasgow District Tramways.	2		20 July		
Mr. Goulding (added, 24th July).	6				7. Manchester Corporation Tramways [H.L.].	3	25 July			
Mr. Beaumont (added, 24th July; discharged, 30th July).	4				8. Workington Railways and Docks [H.L.].	4	27 July			
Mr. Warr (added, 30th July).	2				9. Tramways Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].	1	30 July			

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP 8 (*continued*).										
Mr. Middlemore (added, 30th July).	2				10. Tramways Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].	2	31 July			
Mr. W. Jones (added, 17th July; discharged, 20th July).	4									
GROUP A.										
Sir William Houldsworth (Chairman) (discharged, 4th April).	9	22	27 Mar.	22 May	1. City of London (Various Powers).	6	5 Apr.			
Sir George Pilkington (discharged, 14th May).	15				2. London County Council (Spitalfields Markets).	4	6 Apr.			
Colonel Blundell (discharged, 5th April).	8				3. London County Council (Compulsory Purchase of Land).	0	–	–	27 Mar.	No appearance entered in support of this Bill.
Mr. Dewar (discharged, 4th April).	7				4. London County Council (General Powers).	2	6 Apr.			
Mr. Baldwin (added as Chairman, 4th April; discharged, 8th May).	4				5. London County Council (Improvements).	4	8 May			
Sir W. Brampton Gurdon (added, 4th April).	13				6. East London Water - -	5	15 May			
Sir W. H. Hornby (added, 5th April).	13				7. Lambeth Water . - -	4	18 May			
Colonel Gunter (added as Chairman, 8th May).	9				8. Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water.	2	22 May			
Mr. Donal Sullivan (added, 14th May).	5									

GROUP B.										
Mr. Oldroyd (Chairman) -	30	30	20 Mar.	24 Mar.	1. Lee Conservancy Bill - -	10	4 Apr.			
Mr. Stanley Leighton - -	30				2. Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies.	10	18 May			
Mr. Emmott (discharged, 18th May).	25				3. Gas Light and Coke Company.	5	–	18 May		
Mr. Nicol - - - -	28				4. South Metropolitan Gas -	6	18 May			
Mr. Tennant (added, 21st May).	4				5. Wandsworth and Putney Gas.	4	24 May			
GROUP D.										
Mr. A. Hargreaves Brown (Chairman).	16	16	3 May	9 July	1. Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Bill.	3	14 May			
Mr. Fison (discharged, 10th May).	2				2. City of London Electric Lighting Bill.	1	16 May			
Sir J. Woodhouse (discharged, 16th May).	3				3. Dublin Electric Lighting Bill.	6	23 May			
Mr. Arthur Moore (discharged, 23rd May).	9				4. North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.	8	20 June			
Mr. Trevelyan (added, 16th May).	13									
Mr. Rutherford (added, 10th May).	12									
Mr. Murnaghan (added, 23rd May).	4									
GROUP E.										
Mr. Lewis Fry (Chairman) -	7	7	13 Mar.	23 Mar.	1. Ossett Corporation (Gas) -	4	16 Mar.			
Sir John Kinloch - -	7				2. Ossett Gas - - - -	2	–	-	14 Mar.	
Mr. Cornwallis - - -	7				3. Wakefield Corporation (Market).	3	16 Mar.			

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected	Number of Days on which each Member attended	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP E.—(*continued.*)										
Mr. Cawley (discharged, 8th March).	0				4. Woodbridge District (Water) (removed from Group, 16th March).					
Mr. C. P. Trevelyan (added, 8th March).	7				5. North Warwickshire (Water)	1	20 Mar.			
					6. Great Yarmouth (Port and Haven).	2	23 Mar.			
					7. Jarrow and Hepburn Electricity Supply (added to Group, 14th March; removed from Group, 20th March).					
GROUP F.										
Mr. Schwann	16	16	15 Mar.	5 Apr.	1. Brighton Corporation	6	22 Mar.			
Captain Bethell	16				2. Exeter Corporation	6	30 Mar.			
Mr. Doogan	16				3. Devonport Corporation	3	5 Apr.			
Mr. Moon	16				4. Glastonbury Corporation (Gas).	3	23 Mar.			
					5. Glastonbury and Street (Gas).	–	–	–	29 Mar.	
GROUP G.										
Sir T. Gibson-Carmichael	11	11	13 Mar.	27 Mar.	1. Airdrie, Coatbridge, and District Water Trust Bill.	1½	14 Mar.			
Sir Cameron Gull	11				2. Hamilton Burgh Bill	1½	15 Mar.			
Mr. Carlile (discharged, 16th March).	3				3. Morecambe Urban District Council (Gas) Bill.	1½	19 Mar.			

Mr. Horniman -	11				4. Hartlepool Gas and Water Bill.	2	21 Mar.			
Mr. Orr-Ewing (added, 16th March).	7				5. Southport Water Bill -	1½	22 Mar.			
					6. Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement Bill.	1	23 Mar.			
					7. Widnes and Runcorn Bridge Bill.	2	27 Mar.			
GROUP H.										
Sir Henry Fletcher (Chairman).	9	9	17 May	26 June	1. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 1).	2	18 May			
Viscount Sandon - -	7				2. Church's Patent Bill - -	1	21 May			
Mr. Whittaker (discharged, 22nd May).	3				3. Cowes Pier Bill - - -	½	22 May			
Mr. C. B. M'Laren (discharged, 22nd May).	3				4. Newport Corporation Bill -	1½	23 May			
Mr. E. J. C. Morton - -	6				5. Exmouth Urban District Water Bill.	1½	25 May			
Mr. J. Wilson (Durham) -	6				6. Motherwell Water Bill :	½	25 May	–	–	On the Preamble being proved, as amended, the Promoters withdrew the Bill.
					7. Gun Barrel Proof Act, 1868, Amendment Bill.	2	26 June			
GROUP J.										
Colonel Gunter - - -	24	24	19 June	23 July	1. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 5).	3	20 June			
Mr. Souttar - - -	23				2. Tottenham Urban District Council.	3	21 June			
Mr. Yoxall (discharged, 16th July).	16				3. Falkirk and District Water	2	22 June			
Mr. Coghill (discharged, 2nd July).	7				4. East Stirlingshire Water -	2	26 June			
Sir Harry Bullard (added, 2nd July).	13				5. Edinburgh Corporation -	5	2 July			
					6. Hemel Hempstead Corporation.	5	5 July			

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
GROUP J.—(*continued.*)										
Major Jameson (added, 9th July; discharged, 11th July).	1				7. Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel.	5	16 July			
Mr. James O'Connor (added, 11th July).	7				8. Margate Pier and Harbour -	3	10 July			
					9. Margate Corporation - -	2	12 July			
					10. Ramsgate Corporation Improvements.	3	16 July			
					11. Walsall Corporation - -	2	18 July			
					12. Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation.	3	20 July			
GROUP K.										
Sir Frederick Godson (Chairman).	8	8	26 June	6 July	1. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 9) Bill.	2	26 June			
Mr. Batty Langley - -	6				2. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill.	2	27 June			
Sir A. Acland-Hood - -	8				3. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill.	1	27 June			
Sir John Baker - - -	8				4. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.	1	28 June			
					5. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill.	2	29 June			
					6. Rotherham Corporation Bill [H.L.]	2	2 July			
					7. Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill.	2	4 July			
					8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill.	2	4 July			
					9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill.	1	6 July			

Select Committee on Electric Power Bills :										
Sir James Kitson (Chairman).	28	29	3 May	9 July	1. Durham [County of] Electric Power Supply Bill.	8	3 July	–	–	Sir Andrew Scoble acted as Chairman on 9th July
Sir Andrew Scoble - -	29				2. Tyneside Electric Power Bill.	10	–	3 July		
Mr. Bartley - - -	29				3. Lancashire Electric Power Bill.	11	3 July			These Bills were referred to this Special Committee of seven Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection.
Mr. Ashton - - -	29				4. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Bill.	10	28 June			
Mr. Howard - - -	29									
Mr. Billson - -	29									
Colonel Long - -	29									
Sir John Kennaway (Chairman).	11	11	8 May	22 May	1. Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway.	11	–	22 May		
Mr. Nussey - - -	11									
Mr. Wrightson - - -	11									
Mr. Charles Douglas - -	11									
Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills (prior to division) :										
Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Chairman).	12	12	27 Mar.	11 May	1. Liverpool Corporation - -	2	May	–	–	This Committee was divided into Sections (A) and (B) by the Committee of Selection, 11th May. Mr. Leuty was discharged, and Mr. Graham, Mr. Runciman, and Mr. Wason were added.
Mr. Reginald M'Kenna -	12				2. Bradford Corporation - -	4	2 May			
Mr. H. J. Wilson - -	10				3. Aberdeen Police and Improvement.	6	11 May			
Mr. J. W. Wilson - -	4				4. Ilfracombe Improvement -	2	11 May			
Sir Henry Bemrose - -	6									
Mr. Heywood Johnstone -	7									

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
Select Committee on **Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills (prior to division)**—*continued*:										
Mr. Bill - - - -	7									
Mr. Wylie - - - -	1									
Mr. Leuty (discharged, 11th May).	0									
Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills (Section A):										
Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Chairman).	19	19	16 May	19 July	1. Farnworth Urban District Council.	2	23 May			
Sir Henry Bemrose - -	12				2. Lancaster Corporation -	4	25 May			
Mr. Runciman - - -	11				3. Rochdale Corporation - -	4	20 June			
Mr. H. J. Wilson - -	17				4. Croydon Tramways and Improvements.	4	26 June			
Mr. J. W. Wilson - -	15				5. Tottenham Urban District Council.	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 22nd May
Mr. Wylie - - - -	1				6. Hastings Corporation - -	4	9 July			
					7. Preston Corporation [H.L.] -	2	10 July			
					8. Salford Corporation [H.L.] -	–	–	–	–	Removed from Group, 10th July
					9. Sheffield Corporation [H.L.]	–	19 July			

Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills (Section B):										
Mr. Reginald M'Kenna (Chairman).	16	16	15 May	July	1. Halifax Corporation - -	4	23 May			
Mr. Heywood Johnstone -	6				2. West Bromwich Corporation	4	28 May			
Mr. Bill - - - -	14				3. Oldham Corporation - -	2	28 May			
Mr. Graham - - -	12				4. West Ham Corporation -	3	21 June			
Mr. Wason - - -	7				5. Scarborough Corporation -	3	27 June			
					6. Taunton Corporation - -	3	27 June			
					7. Coventry Corporation - -	3	2 July			
					8. Southport Corporation -	3	5 July			

The following Bill was referred to a Select Committee nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection.

Nominated by the House, 22nd June:										
Mr. Hanbury (Chairman)	2	2	25 June	2 July	POST OFFICE SITES BILL -	1	2 July			
Sir John Colomb - -	2									
Mr. Johnson-Ferguson -	1									
Lord Hugh Cecil - -	2									
Mr. Joseph Richardson -	0									

The following Bills were referred to Joint Committees of the House of Lords and House of Commons.

NAMES OF MEMBERS Selected.	Number of Days on which each Member attended.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	First Sitting of the Committee.	Last Sitting of the Committee.	NAMES OF BILLS.	Days occupied by each Bill in Committee.	Preamble Proved.	Preamble *not* Proved.	Withdrawn.	REMARKS.
Joint Committee on Dublin Corporation Bill and Clontarf Urban District Council Bill:										
Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Chairman).	26	26	17 May	20 July	DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL -	26	20 July			
Mr. Harwood - - -	24				CLONTARF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.	1	20 July			
Sir Robert Mowbray - -	26									
Mr. Whitmore - - -	24									
Joint Committee on Railways (Ireland) Amalgamation Bills:										
Mr. Hazell - - - -	29	29	18 May	19 June	GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL. MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND BILL.	27	17 July	–	–	These Bills were considered together.
Sir Samuel Montagu - -	28									
Mr. Pierpoint - - -	29									
Mr. Usborne - - -	29									
					GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.	2	19 July			

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
August 1900.

REGINALD DICKINSON,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS, 1900.

ETURN of all PRIVATE BILLS which, in the Session of 1900, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills to the CHAIRMAN of the COMMITTEE of WAYS and MEANS, together with the Names of the Members who Served on each Committee, the Number of Days on which each Committee sat, and the Number of Days on which each Member attended (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0.273, of Session I. 1899).

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
lexandra Park	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
rmy and Navy Investment Trust (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ston Manor Tramways (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
arnsley Corporation	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
edford Gas	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
exhill and Rotherfield Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
irmingham Corporation Stock (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
irmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
irmingham University (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ournemouth Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ray Urban District Council	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
rewery and Commercial Investment Trust (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ristol Water (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ritish Gas Light Company (Staffordshire Potteries).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
uenos Ayres and Rosario Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Burnley Corporation (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Bury and District Water (Transfer) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Caledonian Railway (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Central London Railway - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Cheshire Lines Committee - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
City and South London Railway - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Cleethorpes Gas (H.L.) - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Colonial Bank - - - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Brodie Hoare. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Commercial Union Assurance Company (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Cork Electric Tramways (H.L.)- - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Costa Rica Railway Company (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Crystal Palace Company (H.L.)- - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Cumberland County Council (Bridges) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Dearne Valley Railway (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Donegal Railway (H.L.) - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Dorking Water (H.L.) - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee
Dundee Harbour (H.L.) - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Edinburgh District Lunacy Board (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Falkirk Corporation (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Fishguard Water and Gas (H.L.) - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Fraser Settled Chattels (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Glasgow and South Western Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Glasgow Building Regulations (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Government Stock and other Securities Investment Company (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Grantham (Gas) - - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Great Berkhampstead (Water) (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Great Central Railway (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Great Grimsby Street Tramways (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Great Southern and Western Railway (H.L.)	2	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Gwyrfai Rural District Council (Water) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Hammond (G. H.) Company (H.L.) - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Hastings Harbour - - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Higham Ferrers Water (H.L.) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Imschenetzky's Uralite Patent (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Ipswich Corporation Tramways (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Jarrow and Hebburn Electricity Supply	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Kingston-upon-Thames Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Kingston-upon-Thames Gas (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Lancashire Inebriates Acts Board (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Latimer Road and Acton Railway	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Lincoln Corporation (Tramways) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Liverpool Overhead Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London and San Francisco Bank (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London and South-Western Railway	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London and St. Katharine Docks and East and West India Dock Companies.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London County Council (Money)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London Sea Water Supply (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Maidenhead Gas	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. George Palmer. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Manchester Ship Canal (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Menston Water (Transfer (H.L.)	2	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
ersey Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
id-Kent Water	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ilford Docks (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
orley Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ountain Ash Water (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
uirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railways (Abandonment) (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
eath Harbour (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ewcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ewport (Monmouthshire) Gas (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ew Russia Company (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ewtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Gas (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
orth British Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
orth Metropolitan Railway and Canal	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ottingham Corporation	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
tley Urban District Council Water (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
aignton Urban District Water (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ontefract Park	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ortland Urban District Gas	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
wmarsh Urban District Council (Tramways) (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
edhill Gas	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ymney Iron Company (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Rhymney Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Roe's Patent (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Rugeley Gas	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
St. Alban's Water	2	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Hudson. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
St. David's Railway (Abandonment)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
St. David's Railway (Additional Powers)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Salford Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Scottish American Investment Company, Limited (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Sheffield District Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Southampton Harbour (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways (H.L.).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
South Eastern Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
South Shields Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
South Staffordshire Tramways (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Spalding Urban District Council (Water)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Pollock. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Sunderland Corporation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Taff Vale Railway (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Universal Life Assurance Society (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Vale of Rheidol Light Railway	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Wetherby District Water	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Westgate and Birchington Water (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Whitechapel and Bow Railway (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Wirral Railway (H.L.) - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Withington Urban District Council (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Wolverhampton Gas - - - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Woodbridge District Water - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (1900).

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
dinburgh (Housing of the Working Classes) Improvement Scheme Provisional Order.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ducation Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Brighton and Preston United District, etc.) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
lectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
ectric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Gas Provisional Order (No. 3) - - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Leith Burgh Provisional Order (H.L.) -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 13)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

NAME OF BILL.	Number of Days on which each Committee sat.	NAMES OF MEMBERS.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 3)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) (No. 2).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London (Clerkenwell and Holborn) Provisional Order.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London (Poplar) Provisional Order - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London (St. Luke) Provisional Order -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London (St. Marylebone) Provisional Order.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
London (Southwark) Provisional Order -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Metropolitan Common Scheme (Petersham) Provisional Order.	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Parker Smith. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Metropolitan Police Provisional Order -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Military Lands Provisional Order - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Paisley Waterworks Provisional Order -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Perth and Paisley Gas Provisional Orders	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1).	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) (H.L.)	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.
Water Orders Confirmation (H.L.) - -	1	Mr. J. W. Lowther, Chairman. Mr. Chandos Leigh, Referee.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILLS.

Session 1900.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Number of Days on which each Member sat.
Mr. James William Lowther	21
Mr. Chandos Leigh	21
Mr. Parker Smith	4
Mr. Brodie Hoare	1
Mr. Hudson	1
Mr. G. W. Palmer	1
Mr. Pollock	1

Department of Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means, 2 August 1900.

Horace West.

Number of Bills referred to Chairman of Ways and Means by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills	169

GENERAL SUMMARY OF RETURNS RELATING TO PRIVATE BUSINESS FOR SESSION 1900.

A.)—Number of Private Bills introduced by petition into the House of Commons	145
" " brought from the House of Lords to the House of Commons	113
Number of Private Estate Bills brought from the House of Lords	—
" " Divorce Bills brought from the House of Lords	—
" " Naturalization Bills brought from the House of Lords	—
" " Provisional Order Confirmation Bills read the first time in the House of Commons	62
" " Hybrid Bills	1
TOTAL	321

B.)—Number of Private Bills	which have received the Royal Assent	231
" Provisional Order Bills		59
" Hybrid Bills		1
" Private Bills	passed in the House of Commons, and not passed in the House of Lords	4
" Provisional Order Bills		—
" Hybrid Bills		—
" Private Bills	which have been withdrawn or not proceeded with by the Parties	7
" Provisional Order Bills		—
" Hybrid Bills		—
" Private Bills	which have not passed Standing Orders Committee or have been rejected in the House	3
" Provisional Order Bills		
" Hybrid Bills		—
" Private Bills	which have been rejected in Committee	6
" Provisional Order Bills		—
" Hybrid Bills		—
	TOTAL	311

C.)—Number of Private Bills	reported on by Committees on Opposed Bills or Hybrid Bill Committees	120
" Provisional Order Bills		13
" Hybrid Bills reported on by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection		1
	TOTAL	134

Number of Private Bills	reported on by Committee on Unopposed Bills	122
" Provisional Order Bills		47
	TOTAL	169

JOHN H. SOMERSET,

Principal Clerk, Private Bill Office.

2 *August* 1900.

LIST OF PRIVATE BILLS AND PROCEEDINGS THEREUPON.

8TH AUGUST, 1900.

NOTE.—*The Bills marked thus * are Scotch Bills. The Bills marked thus † are Irish Bills.*

NAME.	Petition presented.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
*Aberdeen Corporation Tramways - - -	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 6	Mar. 6	Group 2	Apr. 6	May 7	July 30
*Aberdeen Police and Improvement - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	May 11	May 24	Aug. 6
*Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 22	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	Group 2	Mar. 28	Apr. 6	July 30
*Airdrie, Coatbridge, and District Water Trust -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group G	Mar. 16	Mar. 29	July 30
Alexandra Park - - - - - - -	May 17	May 28	June 15	June 15	Unopposed	July 4	July 10	Aug. 6
Army and Navy Investment Trust - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 18	May 22	May 25
Aston Manor Tramways - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 22	June 15	June 15	Unopposed	July 6	July 17	July 30
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	Group 6	May 7	May 21	Aug. 6
Barnsley Corporation - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 4	July 26	July 30
Barry Railway (Steam Vessels) - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	May 2	May 2	Group 7	July 2	Preamble	not proved.
Bedford Gas - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	May 2	May 14	July 10
†Belfast and County Down Railway - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Group 5	June 19	June 25	July 30
Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway - - - -	Lords Bill	July 2	July 11	July 11	Unopposed	July 31	Aug. 3	Aug. 6
Birmingham Corporation Stock - - - -	Lords Bill	May 18	June 14	June 14	Unopposed	June 25	June 29	July 10
Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools -	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 15	May 15	Unopposed	May 24	June 22	July 10
Birmingham University - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	May 22	May 25
Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramways - -	Feb. 12	May 4	May 14	May 14	Group 7	May 23	June 21	Aug. 6
Bournemouth Corporation - - - - -	Lords Bill	July 13	July 23	July 23	Unopposed	July 27	Aug. 2	Aug. 6
Bradford Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	May 2	May 14	Aug. 6
†Bray and Enniskerry Railway - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 14	Mar. 14	Group 5	June 22	June 29	Aug. 6
†Bray Urban District Council - - - -	Apr. 3	May 8	May 21	May 21	Unopposed	May 28	June 29	July 30
Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust -	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	June 26	July 10
Brighton Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group F	Mar. 22	Apr. 3	July 30
Bristol Water - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	June 26	July 10
British Gas Light Company (Staffordshire Potteries) - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Unopposed	May 24	June 19	July 10

Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	—
Buckingham, Towcester, and Metropolitan Junction Railway - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Withdrawn	—	-	-
Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway - - -	Lords Bill	July 9	July 18	July 18	Unopposed	July 24	July 30	Aug. 6
Burnley Corporation - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	June 29	July 11	July 30
Bury and District Water Transfer - - -	Lords Bill	June 19	July 2	July 2	Unopposed	July 12	July 23	July 30
*Caledonian Railway . - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 29	July 16	July 16	Unopposed	July 27	Aug. 1	Aug. 6
Cardiff Corporation - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central London Railway - - - - - -	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	—	Apr. 5	Unopposed	May 2	May 11	June 25
Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group D	May 15	May 24	Aug. 6
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Unopposed	Apr. 4	Apr. 27	May 25
Chelsea Water - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Withdrawn	—		—	—	—
Cheshire Lines Committee - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Mar. 21	Apr. 2	May 25
Christchurch, Bournemouth, and Winton Tramways - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 26	Mar. 8	Mar. 20	Mar. 20	Group 7	May 25	June 20	Aug. 6
Church's Patent - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 30	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	Group H	May 21	May 25	June 25
City and South London Railway - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Unopposed	Mar. 16	Mar. 27	May 25
City of London Electric Lighting - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	Group D	May 16	May 25	July 10
City of London (Various Powers) - . -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group A	Apr. 6	May 17	Aug. 6
Cleethorpes Gas - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 10	May 24	June 25
†Clontarf Urban District Council - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Joint Com.	July 20	July 26	Aug. 6
*Clyde Navigation - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colonial Bank - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Mar. 16	Mar. 20	Apr. 9
Commercial Union Assurance Company - -	Lords Bill	May 14	May 23	May 23	Unopposed	June 22	June 26	July 10
†Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	May 10	May 22	June 25
†Cork Electric Tramways - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	July 9	July 30
Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited - -	Lords Bill	July 9	July 18	July 18	Unopposed	July 24	July 30	Aug. 6
County of London and Brush Provincial Electric Lighting - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Second Reading put off for six months.				
Coventry Corporation - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Police, &c. Section B	July 2	July 9	Aug. 6
Cowes Pier - - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Group H	May 22	June 21	June 25
Croydon Tramways and Improvements - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	June 26	July 3	Aug. 6
Crystal Palace Company - - - - - -	Lords Bill	July 6	July 23	July 23	Unopposed	July 24	July 27	July 30
Cumberland County Council (Bridges) - -	May 15	May 21	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	July 2	Aug. 6
Dearne Valley Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 17	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	July 12	July 19	July 30
Devonport Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 22	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Group F	Apr. 5	May 28	Aug. 6
†Donegal Railway - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 23	Apr. 2	Apr. 2	Unopposed	July 4	July 13	July 30

NAME.	Petition presented.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Dorking Water	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	June 14	June 25
†Dublin Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Joint Com.	July 20	July 26	Aug. 6
†Dublin Electric Lighting	Feb. 9	Mar. 1	Apr. 30	Apr. 30	Group D	May 24	Third Reading put off for 3 months	
†Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway	Lords Bill	June 19	July 4	July 4	Unopposed	July 17	July 26	July 30
*Dundee and East Forfar Tramways	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Dundee Harbour	Lords Bill	Mar. 22	Apr. 2	Apr. 2	Unopposed	May 10	May 24	June 25
Durham (County of) Electric Power Supply	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Select	July 9	July 16	Aug. 6
East London Water	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Group A	May 16	May 25	Aug. 6
East Shropshire Water	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*East Stirlingshire Water	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 3	May 3	Group J	June 26	July 6	July 10
*Edinburgh Corporation	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 8	May 8	Group J	July 2	July 20	July 30
*Edinburgh District Lunacy Board	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	May 4	May 4	Unopposed	June 25	July 10	July 30
Exeter Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group F	Apr. 2	May 3	Aug. 6
Exmouth and District Water	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exmouth Urban District Water	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 8	May 8	Group H	May 25	July 12	July 30
*Falkirk and District Water	Lords Bill	Apr. 5	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Group J	June 25	July 16	July 30
*Falkirk Corporation	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	July 12	July 30
Farnworth Urban District Council	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	May 23	June 18	Aug. 6
Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 4	July 12	July 30
Fishguard Water and Gas	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	June 14	June 25
Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramroads	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraser (Settled) Chattels	Lords Bill	July 16	July 25	July 25	Unopposed	July 31	Aug. 3	Aug. 6
Gas Light and Coke, Commercial Gas, and South Metropolitan Gas Companies	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group B	May 23	June 18	Aug. 6
Gas Light and Coke Company	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Group B	May 18	Preamble	not proved.
*Glasgow and South Western Railway	Lords Bill	May 17	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	July 2	July 10
*Glasgow Building Regulations	Lords Bill	June 19	July 2	July 2	Unopposed	July 13	July 24	July 30
*Glasgow District Tramways	Lords Bill	June 19	July 10	July 10	Group 8	July 20	Preamble	not proved.
Glastonbury and Street Gas	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	Group F	Mar. 29	Parties do	not proceed.
Glastonbury Corporation Gas	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group F	Mar. 29	Apr. 27	June 25
Glyncorrwg Urban District Council Gas	Lords Bill	May 1	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 4	July 19	July 30

Governments Stock and other Securities Investment Company	Lords Bill	Mar. 29	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	Unopposed	May 24	May 28	June 25
Grantham Gas	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Mar. 16	Mar. 27	May 25
Great Berkhampstead Water	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	July 10
Great Central Railway	Lords Bill	May 11	May 21	May 21	Unopposed	May 28	June 21	June 25
Great Eastern Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group 2	Mar. 20	Apr. 2	July 30
Great Grimsby Street Tramways	Lords Bill	June 22	July 2	July 2	Unopposed	July 12	July 20	July 30
Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company	Apr. 30	May 7	May 16	May 16	Group 8	July 6	July 11	July 30
Great Northern Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Group 2	Mar. 21	Apr. 2	July 30
†Great Northern Railway (Ireland)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Group 5	June 19	June 25	Aug. 6
†Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation	Lords Bill	July 27	—	Aug. 1	Joint Committee [*]	July 19	Aug. 1	Aug. 6
†Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation	Lords Bill	July 27	—	Aug. 1	Joint Committee [*]	July 19	Aug. 1	Aug. 6
†Great Southern and Western Railway	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 16	May 16	Unopposed	June 29	July 13	July 30
Great Western Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 26	Mar. 26	Group 3	Apr. 6	May 8	July 30
Great Yarmouth Port and Haven	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group E	Mar. 23	Apr. 5	July 30
Gun Barrel Proof Act, 1868, Amendment	Lords Bill	Apr. 5	May 8	May 8	Group H	June 26	Parties do	not proceed.
Gwyrfai Rural District Council Water	Lords Bill	May 28	June 26	June 26	Unopposed	July 4	July 18	July 30
Halifax Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section B	May 23	June 18	Aug. 6
*Hamilton Burgh	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group G	Mar. 15	Mar. 26	July 10
*Hamilton, Motherwell, and Wishaw Tramways	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Group 2	Mar. 30	May 3	July 30
Hammond (G. H.) Company	Lords Bill	June 29	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 17	July 20	July 30
Hartlepool Gas and Water	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group G	Mar. 21	Mar. 30	July 30
Hastings Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 20	Feb. 20	Police, &c. Section A	July 2	July 9	Aug. 6
Hastings Harbour	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 20	Feb. 20	Unopposed	Apr. 4	Apr. 27	June 25
Hastings Tramways	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Group 3	Mar. 30	Apr. 26	July 30
Hemel Hempstead Corporation (Water)	Lords Bill	May 1	May 14	May 14	Group J	July 9	July 30	Aug. 6
Higham Ferrers Water	Lords Bill	Mar. 26	Apr. 4	Apr. 4	Unopposed	May 10	May 21	June 25
Hoylake and West Kirby Improvement	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group G	Mar. 26	Apr. 6	July 10
Huddersfield Corporation Tramways	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 2 re-committed	Mar. 20 May 22	June 18	Aug. 6
Huntingdon Corporation [†]	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 13		—	—	-	...

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[*] Joint Committee on Railways (Ireland) Amalgamation Bills.

[†] Bill not to be further proceeded with in pursuance of Resolution of the House of 13th March.

NAME.	Petition presented.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Ilfracombe Improvement	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	May 16	May 28	Aug. 6
Imschenetzky's Uralite Patent	Lords Bill	Apr. 5	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 10	May 14	May 25
Ipswich Corporation Tramways	Lords Bill	May 3	May 14	May 14	Unopposed	July 24	July 30	Aug. 6
Jarrow and Hebburn Electricity Supply	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 5	Mar. 5	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	July 30
†Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 5	May 28	June 18	Aug. 8
Kingston-upon-Thames Corporation	Lords Bill	Apr. 5	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 10	May 14	May 25
Kingston-upon-Thames Gas	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	May 10	May 21	May 25
Knott End Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 20	Mar. 20	Withdrawn	—	—	—
Lambeth Water	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Group A	May 21	June 15	July 30
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 28	Feb. 28	Group 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 30	July 10
Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	May 10	May 21	July 30
Lancashire Electric Power	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Select	July 9	July 16	Aug. 6
Lancashire Inebriates Acts Board	Lords Bill	Mar. 23	Apr. 2	Apr. 2	Unopposed	May 18	June 18	June 25
Lancaster Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	May 28	June 19	Aug. 6
Latimer Road and Acton Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Unopposed	May 10	May 22	July 30
Lee Conservancy	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group B	Apr. 4	May 7	July 30
Lincoln Corporation (Tramways)	Lords Bill	Mar. 30	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	Unopposed	June 25	July 5	July 10
Liverpool Corporation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c.	May 3	May 17	Aug. 6
Liverpool Overhead Railway	Lords Bill	[illegible]	July 2	July 2	Unopposed	July 13	July 25	Aug. 6
Llandrindod Wells Water	Mar. 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London and India Docks Joint Committee	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	May 15	Put off for six months.		—	—	—
London and North Western Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group 4	May 14	May 25	Aug. 6
London and North Western Railway (Wales)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group 4	May 14	May 28	Aug. 6
London and Saint Katherine Docks and East and West India Dock Companies	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	June 14	June 18	July 30
London and San Francisco Bank	Lords Bill	June 29	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 17	July 20	July 30
London and South Western Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Apr. 4	May 3	July 30
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	May 10	May 23	June 25
London County Council (Compulsory Purchase of Land)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group A	Mar. 30	Parties do not proceed.	
London County Council (General Powers)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Group A	Apr. 6	Apr. 30	Aug. 6
London County Council (Improvements)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Group A	May 10	May 28	Aug. 6

London County Council (Spitalfields Market)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group A	Apr. 6	Apr. 30	—
London County Tramways (No. 1)	Mar. 12	May 3	May 8	May 8	Group 7	June 26	July 5	Aug. 6
London County Tramways (No. 2)	Feb. 15	Feb. 16	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group 1	Mar. 22	Apr. 30	Aug. 6
London Hydraulic Power Company	Lords Bill		—	—	—	—	—	—
London Sea Water Supply	Lords Bill	May 11	May 22	May 22	Unopposed	July 4	July 19	July 30
London United Tramways	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Mar. 27	Mar. 27	Group 6	May 8	May 25	Aug. 6
London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Withdrawn.	—	—	—	—	—
London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment)	June 15	June 27	July 9	July 9	Group 8	July 18	July 23	Aug. 6
London Water (Purchase)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 29	Second	Reading put off	for six months.		—
London Water (Welsh Supply)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 29	Withdrawn.	—	—	—	—
Lowestoft Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Withdrawn.	—	—	--
Maidenhead Gas	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	Apr. 4	Apr. 27	June 25
Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Not Grouped	May 22	Preamble	not proved
Manchester City Railway	Feb. 9	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester Corporation Tramways	Lords Bill	June 29	July 9	July 9	Group 8	July 27	Aug. 2	Aug. 8
Manchester Ship Canal	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	June 14	June 25
Margate Corporation	Lords Bill	May 28	June 29	June 29	Group J	July 13	July 31	Aug. 6
Margate Pier and Harbour	Lords Bill	May 22	June 15	June 15	Group J	July 12	July 20	July 30
Market Weighton Drainage and Navigation	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 2	Mar. 23	Apr. 3	Aug. 6
Maryport Harbour	Lords Bill	—	—	—		-	—	—
Menstone Water (Transfer)	Lords Bill	Mar. 20	Apr. 2	Apr. 2	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	June 25
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board	Lords Bill	Mar. 29	May 15	May 15	Unopposed	May 24	June 25	July 10
Mersey Railway	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 12	July 20	July 30
Metropolitan District Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	Group 6	May 14	June 14	Aug. 6
Metropolitan Water Companies [*]	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 29	Withdrawn	—	—	—	—
Mid-Kent Water	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	Aug. 6
Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland	Lords Bill	July 20	July 31	July 31	Joint Committee [†]	July 13	July 31	Aug. 6
Midland Railway	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group 2	Apr. 5	May 7	July 30
Milford Docks	Lords Bill	May 14	May 23	May 23	Unopposed	June 22	June 26	July 10
Morecambe Urban District Council (Gas)	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group G	Mar. 19	Mar. 29	July 10
Morley Corporation	Lords Bill	July 3	July 16	July 16	Unopposed	July 27	July 31	Aug. 6
*Motherwell and Bellshill Railway	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Group 8	July 16	July 24	July 30

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[*] Order for Second Reading read;

Mr. Speaker called the attention of the House to the provisions of the Bill which sought to confer large and important powers on a public Department, viz., the Local Government Board, which ought, according to the practice of the House, to be done by a Public and not a Private Bill:—

Whereupon the Order was discharged, and the Bill withdrawn.

[†] Joint Committee on Railways (Ireland) Amalgamation Bills.

NAME.	Petition presented.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Motherwell Water - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 2	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Group H	May 25	June 21	July 10
Mountain Ash Water - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	June 14	July 30
*Muirkirk, Mauchline, and Dalmellington Railway (Abandonment) - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 22	July 3	July 3	Unopposed	July 12	Aug. 2	Aug. 6
National Markets and Stores and Workshops -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neath Harbour - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 14	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 25	June 29	July 10
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 6	Mar. 6	Unopposed	June 29	July 4	Aug. 6
Newport Corporation - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 2	May 2	Group H	May 23	June 18	June 25
Newport (Monmouthshire) Gas - - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 27	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	Unopposed	May 2	May 14	May 25
New Russia Company - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 18	May 22	May 25
†Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway - -	Feb. 9	Mar. 1	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group 5	May 25	June 18	Aug. 6
Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban District Gas	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	June 25
*North British Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 22	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 17	July 26	Aug. 6
North Eastern Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 28	July 2	July 2	Group 8	July 18	July 26	July 30
North Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels) - -	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Group 8	July 18	July 25	July 30
North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group D	July 9	July 17	Aug. 6
North Metropolitan Railway and Canal - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	May 2	May 10	July 30
North Pembrokeshire Water and Gas (*see* "Fishguard Water and Gas").								
North Warwickshire Water - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group E	Mar. 20	Apr. 2	July 10
Nottingham Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	May 10	May 24	July 30
Oldham Corporation - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section B	June 18	June 26	Aug. 6
Ossett Corporation Gas - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group E	Mar. 16	Mar. 29	July 10
Ossett Gas - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 6	Mar. 6	Group E	Mar. 14	Parties do	not proceed.
Otley Urban District Council Water - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 23	Apr. 2	Apr. 2	Unopposed	May 10	May 22	June 25
Paignton Urban District Water - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 6	May 2	May 2	Unopposed	May 24	June 25	July 10
Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport Tramways	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 25	July 2	Aug. 6
Pontefract Park - . - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	Mar. 6	Mar. 16	May 25
Portland Urban District Gas - - - - -	Mar. 30	Apr. 5	Apr. 26	Apr. 26	Unopposed	May 24	June 18	July 30
Preston Corporation - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 19	July 2	July 2	Police, &c.	July 12	July 23	July 30
Purfleet and Gravesend Junction Railway - -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ramsgate Corporation Improvements - - -	Lords Bill	June 22	July 2	July 2	Group J	July 17	July 26	July 30
Rawmarsh Urban District Council (Tramways) -	Lords Bill	May 17	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	July 12	July 20	July 30

Reading Corporation (Tramways) - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 3	Mar. 23	Apr. 5	July 30
Redhill Gas - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Mar. 16	Mar. 27	May 25
Rhymney Iron Company - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 9	May 7	May 7	Unopposed	May 18	May 23	June 25
Rhymney Railway - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	July 12	July 30
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 19	Group A	May 22	June 19	Aug. 6
Rochdale Corporation - - - - - - -	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	June 20	June 26	Aug. 6
Roe's Patent - - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	July 10	July 18	July 18	Unopposed	July 24	July 27	July 30
Rotherham Corporation - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 25	June 25	June 25	Group K	July 3	July 24	July 30
Rotherhithe and Ratcliff Tunnel - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 14	May 23	May 23	Group J	July 16	July 30	Aug. 6
Rugeley Gas - - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Mar. 6	Mar. 15	May 25
St. Albans Water - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	May 2	May 28	July 30
St. David's Railway (Abandonment) - - -	Feb. 16	Mar. 15	May 17	May 17	Unopposed	May 28	June 19	Aug. 6
St. David's Railway (Additional Powers) - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Unopposed	Apr. 4	Apr. 30	—
Salford Corporation - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 19	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 24	July 30	Aug. 6
Scarborough Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section A	June 27	July 4	Aug. 6
*Scottish American Investment Company - -	Lords Bill	May 18	June 14	June 14	Unopposed	June 22	June 29	July 10
*Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society - - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 13	Mar. 26	Mar. 26	Unopposed	May 2	May 7	May 25
†Shannon Water and Electric Power - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 22	Mar. 19	Mar. 19	Group K	July 4	July 10	—
Sheffield Corporation - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 19	July 2	July 2	Police, &c. Section A	July 26	July 30	Aug. 6
Sheffield District Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 18	June 14	June 14	Unopposed	June 25	July 5	July 10
Southampton Harbour - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	Apr. 3	Apr. 27	Apr. 27	Unopposed	May 10	May 21	May 25
South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways - - - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 25	July 16	July 16	Unopposed	July 24	Aug. 1.	Aug. 6
South Eastern Metropolitan Tramways - -	Feb. 12	Feb. 22	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Group 6	May 11	May 24	July 30
South Eastern Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 22	June 15	June 15	Unopposed	June 22	July 2	July 10
South Essex Water - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Essex Water Board - - - - - -	Lords Bill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Lancashire Tramways - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	Group 4	May 8	May 24	Aug. 6
South Metropolitan Gas - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Group B	May 24	June 18	July 30
Southport Corporation - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Police, &c. Section B	July 5	July 11	Aug. 6
Southport Extension and Tramways -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 1	Mar. 15	Mar. 30	July 10
Southport and Lytham Tramroad - - -	Feb. 13	Feb. 15	Apr. 9	Apr. 9	Group 4	May 16	June 15	Aug. 6
Southport Water - - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Group G	Mar. 23	Apr. 5	June 25
South Shields Corporation - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 26	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 17	July 27	July 30
South Staffordshire Tramways - - - -	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 4	July 13	July 30
South Wales Electrical Power Distribution - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Select	July 9		Aug. 6
Spalding Urban District Council (Water) - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	Mar. 21	Apr. 2	July 30

NAME.	Petition presented.	Bill read first time.	Day fixed for second reading.	Bill read second time.	Committee to which Bills are referred.	Bill reported.	Bill read third time.	Royal Assent.
Stockport Corporation Tramways - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group 1	Mar. 16	Mar. 30	July 10
Sunderland Corporation - - - -	Lords Bill	July 19	July 30	July 30	Unopposed	July 31	Aug. 3	Aug. 6
Taff Vale Railway - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 15	May 28	May 28	Unopposed	June 22	June 29	July 10
Taunton Corporation - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	Police, &c. Section B	June 27	July 5	Aug. 6
Tottenham Urban District Council - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group J	June 22	June 29	Aug. 6
Tyneside Electric Power - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Select	July 3	Preamble	not proved
Universal Life Assurance Society - - -	Lords Bill	Mar. 13	Mar. 26	Mar. 26	Unopposed	Apr. 4	Apr. 27	May 25
Uralite Patent (*see* "Imschenetzky's Uralite Patent").								
Vale of Rheidol Light Railway - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Unopposed	May 2	May 14	July 30
Wakefield Corporation Market - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group E	Mar. 16	Mar. 30	July 10
Walsall Corporation - - - - - -	Lords Bill	June 22	July 4	July 4	Group J	July 18	July 27	Aug. 6
Wandsworth and Putney Gas - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Group B	May 23	June 18	Aug. 6
Wellingborough and District Tramroads - -	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Mar. 6	Mar. 6	Group 3	Mar. 30	Apr. 27	July 30
West Bromwich Corporation - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Police, &c. Section B	May 28	June 19	Aug. 6
West Ham Corporation - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Police, &c. Section B	June 21	June 27	Aug. 6
Westgate and Birchington Water - - -	Lords Bill	May 28	June 25	June 25	Unopposed	July 12	July 16	July 30
Wetherby District Water - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Unopposed	Mar. 21	Mar. 30	May 25
Whitechapel and Bow Railway - - - -	Lords Bill	May 22	June 15	June 15	Unopposed	June 22	July 19	July 30
Widnes and Runcorn Bridge - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Group C	Mar. 27	Apr. 6	July 10
Wirral Railway - - - - - - -	Lords Bill	May 18	June 14	June 14	Unopposed	June 22	July 3	July 10
Withington Urban District Council - - -	Lords Bill	June 25	July 9	July 9	Unopposed	July 24	July 30	Aug. 6
Wolverhampton, Essington, and Cannock Chase Junction Railway - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 20	Feb. 20	Group 3	Mar. 26	Apr. 26	—
Wolverhampton Gas - - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Unopposed	May 3	May 17	July 30
Woodbridge District Water - - - - - -	Feb. 9	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	Unopposed	May 3	May 14	July 10
Workington Railways and Docks - - -	Lords Bill	July 5	—	July 19	Group 8	July 30	Aug. 2	Aug. 6

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

ETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31st July, 1900 ;—*for*,

ETURN "of the Number of Days on which the House sat in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900, stating, for each Day, the Date of the Month, and Day of the Week, the Hour of the Meeting, and the Hour of Adjournment; and the Total Number of Hours occupied in the Sittings of the House and the Average Time; and showing the Number of Hours on which the House sat each Day, and the Number of Hours after Midnight; and the Number of Entries in each Day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.277, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

SESSION II., 1899.

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after Midnight.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1899.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
ct. 17	Tu.	2 0	12 10	10 10	0 10	25
„ 18	Wd.	12 0	5 20	5 20	—	13
„ 19	Th.	3 0	12 35	9 35	0 35	11
„ 20	Fr.	3 0	11 50	8 50	—	8
„ 23	M.	3 0	8 0	5 0	—	11
„ 24	Tu.	3 0	4 15	1 15	—	12
„ 25	Wd.	12 0	8 40	8 40	—	17
„ 26	Th.	3 0	4 10	1 10	—	10
„ 27	Fr.	10 30	Prorogation.		—	15
otal -	9 dys.	- -	- -	50 0	0 45	122

Average Length of Sitting,

aily - - 5 hours 33 minutes 20 seconds.

SESSION 1900.

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after Midnight.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1900.						
an. 30	Tu.	2 0	12 1	10 1	0 1	55
„ 31	Wd.	12 0	5 30	5 30	- -	35
otal -	2 dys.	- -	- -	15 31	0 1	90
eb. 1	Th.	3 0	12 1	9 1	0 1	36
„ 2	Fr.	3 0	12 1	9 1	0 1	134
„ 5	M.	3 0	11 57	8 57	—	14
„ 6	Tu.	3 0	12 20	9 20	0 20	30
„ 7	Wd.	12 0	6 45	5 45	—	11
„ 8	Th.	3 0	11 55	8 55	—	16
„ 9	Fr.	3 0	12 50	9 50	0 50	167
„ 12	M.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	147
„ 13	Tu.	3 0	12 1	9 1	0 1	23
„ 14	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 43	—	12
„ 15	Th.	3 0	12 25	9 25	0 25	35
„ 16	Fr.	3 0	12 30	9 30	0 30	39
„ 19	M.	3 0	1 25	10 25	1 25	97
„ 20	Tu.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	46
„ 21	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 40	—	46
„ 22	Th.	3 0	12 3	9 3	0 3	40
„ 23	Fr.	3 0	12 30	9 30	0 30	37
„ 26	M.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	48
„ 27	Tu.	3 0	11 50	8 50	—	39
„ 28	Wd.	2 0	5 57	3 57	—	47
otal -	20	- -	- -	169 15	4 31	1,064

SESSION 1900.

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after Midnight.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1900.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
Mar. 1	Th.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	47
„ 2	Fr.	3 0	1 15	10 15	1 15	33
„ 5	M.	3 0	1 30	10 30	1 30	43
„ 6	Tu.	3 0	8 30	5 30	—	36
„ 7	Wd.	12 0	5 45	5 45	—	45
„ 8	Th.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	32
„ 9	Fr.	3 0	7 45	4 45	—	28
„ 12	M.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	57
„ 13	Tu.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	49
„ 14	Wd.	12 0	5 35	5 35	—	39
„ 15	Th.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	57
„ 16	Fr.	3 0	12 25	9 25	0 25	49
„ 19	M.	3 0	12 2	9 2	0 2	52
„ 20	Tu.	3 0	7 30	4 30	—	37
„ 21	Wd.	12 0	5 50	5 50	—	54
„ 22	Th.	3 0	12 45	9 45	0 45	65
„ 23	Fr.	3 0	12 2	9 2	0 2	43
„ 26	M.	3 0	12 20	9 20	0 20	68
„ 27	Tu.	3 0	12 25	9 25	0 25	66
„ 28	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 40	—	36
„ 29	Th.	3 0	12 35	9 35	0 35	72
„ 30	Fr.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	58
Total -	22	- -	- -	178 34	5 59	1,066
Apr. 2	M.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	90
„ 3	Tu.	3 0	12 2	9 2	0 2	71
„ 4	Wd.	12 0	5 45	5 45	—	48
„ 5	Th.	3 0	12 55	9 55	0 55	57
„ 6	Fr.	3 0	11 15	8 15	—	63
„ 9	M.	3 0	11 55	8 55	—	74
„ 26	Th.	3 0	12 25	9 25	0 25	89
„ 27	Fr.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	79
„ 30	M.	3 0	12 20	9 20	0 20	77
Total -	9	- -	- -	78 57	2 2	648

Return of the Number of Days on which the House sat in Session, 1900, &c.—*continued.*

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after Midnight.	No. of Entries in Votes.
1900.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
May 1	Tu.	3 0	8 30	5 30	—	65
„ 2	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 40	—	90
„ 3	Th.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	62
„ 4	Fr.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	44
„ 7	M.	3 0	12 55	9 55	0 55	76
„ 8	Tu.	3 0	8 50	5 50	-	53
„ 9	Wd.	12 0	4 0	4 0	—	31
„ 10	Th.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	118
„ 11	Fr.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	47
„ 14	M.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	79
„ 15	Tu.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	79
„ 16	Wd.	12 0	5 35	5 35	—	59
„ 17	Th.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	67
„ 18	Fr.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	68
„ 21	M.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	104
„ 22	Tu.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	73
„ 23	Wd.	12 0	5 45	5 45	—	69
„ 24	Th.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	54
„ 25	Fr.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	78
„ 28	M.	3 0	2 50	11 50	2 50	130
Total -	20	- -	- -	163 55	5 35	1,446
June 14	Th.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	110
„ 15	Fr.	3 0	11 0	8 0	—	69
„ 18	M.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	131
„ 19	Tu.	3 0	8 40	5 40	—	67
„ 20	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 40	—	58
„ 21	Th.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	83
„ 22	Fr.	3 0	12 30	9 30	0 30	69
„ 25	M.	3 0	12 20	9 20	0 20	118
„ 26	Tu.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	79
„ 27	Wd.	12 0	5 40	5 40	—	62
„ 28	Th.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	59
„ 29	Fr.	3 0	11 55	8 55	—	59
Total -	12	- -	- -	98 35	1 40	964

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.	No. of Hours Sitting.	No. of Hours after Midnight.	No. of Entries
1900.		H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	
July 2	M.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	10
„ 3	Tu.	3 0	12 20	9 20	0 20	
„ 4	Wd.	12 0	5 50	5 50	—	
„ 5	Th.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	
„ 6	Fr.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	
„ 9	M.	3 0	2 20	11 20	2 20	11
„ 10	Tu.	3 0	12 10	9 10	0 10	
„ 11	Wd.	12 0	5 10	5 10	—	
„ 12	Th.	3 0	12 15	9 15	0 15	
„ 13	Fr.	3 0	12 2	9 2	0 2	
„ 16	M.	3 0	1 45	10 45	1 45	
„ 17	Tu.	3 0	12 50	9 50	0 50	
„ 18	Wd.	12 0	6 15	6 15	—	
„ 19	Th.	3 0	12 5	9 5	0 5	
„ 20	Fr.	3 0	1 50	10 50	1 50	
„ 23	M.	3 0	1 15	10 15	1 15	
„ 24	Tu.	3 0	1 15	10 15	1 15	
„ 25	Wd.	12 0	7 30	7 30	—	
„ 26	Th.	3 0	1 55	10 55	1 55	
„ 27	Fr.	3 0	1 30	10 30	1 30	
„ 30	M.	3 0	2 0	11 0	2 0	
„ 31	Tu.	3 0	3 20	12 20	3 20	
Total -	22	- -	- -	206 7	19 22	1,2
Aug. 1	Wd.	12 0	7 50	7 55	—	
„ 2	Th.	3 0	1 5	10 5	1 5	
„ 3	Fr.	3 0	10 50	7 50	—	
„ 6	M.	3 0	12 50	9 50	0 50	
„ 7	Tu.	3 0	5 50	2 50	—	
„ 8	Wd.	10 0	Prorogation.			
Total -	6	- -	- -	38 30	1 55	3

SUMMARY.

MONTH.	Number of Days Sitting.	Number of Hours Sitting.	Number of Hours after Midnight.	Number of Entries in Vot
SESSION 1900.		H. M.	H. M.	
January - - - - - -	2	15 31	0 1	90
February - - - - -	20	169 15	4 31	10.64
March - - - - - -	22	178 34	5 59	1,166
April - - - - - -	9	78 57	2 2	648
May - - - - - -	20	163 55	5 35	1,446
June - - - - - -	12	98 35	1 40	964
July - - - - - -	22	206 7	19 22	1,242
August - - - - -	6	38 30	1 55	307
Total - - -	113	949 24	41 5	6,827

Average Length of Sitting daily, 8 hours, 24 minutes, $6\frac{43}{113}$ seconds.

WILLIAM H. LEY,
Clerk of the Journal

24 *August*, 1900.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 July 1900;—*for*,

RETURN "showing, with reference to SESSION II. of 1899 and the SESSION of 1900:—(1) the Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had Precedence; (2) the Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had Precedence; (3) the Number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had Precedence; (4) the Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence under a Special Order of the House; (5) the Number of Saturday Sittings; (6) the Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence; (7) the Total Number of Days on which the House Sat; (8) the Total Number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance; and (9) the Number of Days on which Business of Supply was considered" (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 326, of Session I. of 1899).

SESSION II. of 1899.

(1.)—The Number of SITTINGS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence.

TUESDAY, 17th October. (First day of Meeting.)

TUESDAYS:

24th October.

TOTAL - - - 1 day.

WEDNESDAYS:

18th October.
25th October.

TOTAL - - - 2 days.

FRIDAYS:

20th October.
27th October.

TOTAL - - - 2 days.

(2.)—The Number of SITTINGS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which PRIVATE MEMBERS had Precedence.

TUESDAYS.

Nil.

WEDNESDAYS.

Nil.

FRIDAYS.

Nil.

(3.)—The Number of OTHER SITTINGS at which, in accordance with the STANDING ORDERS of the HOUSE, GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence.

		TOTAL.
October :		
Monday, 23rd- - - - - - - - - -	1	3 days.
Thursdays, 19th, 26th - - - - - - - -	2	
TOTAL for SESSION - - -	- -	3 days.

(4).—The Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence under a SPECIAL ORDER of the HOUSE.

18th October, 1899, page 12 of the Votes.

Ordered, That during the Autumn Sittings no Motions for leave to bring in Bills be given except by a Minister of the Crown; that on every day Government Business do have precedence, and at the conclusion thereof Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put; and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to all the days of the week.

OCTOBER.

Wednesday - - - - - - -	18th October.
Friday - - - - - - - -	20th October.
Tuesday - - - - - - - -	24th October.
Wednesday - - - - - - -	25th October.
Friday - - - - - - - -	27th October.
TOTAL - - -	5 days.

(5.)—The Number of SATURDAY SITTINGS.

Nil.

(6.)—The Total Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had precedence - - - - - - 8*

* Exclusive of Tuesday, 17th October, First day of Meeting.

(7.)—The Total Number of DAYS on which the HOUSE sat - 9

(8.)—The Total Number of MOTIONS for ADJOURNMENT of the HOUSE on a Matter of Urgent PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

Nil.

(9.)—The Number of DAYS on which Business of Supply was considered.

FRIDAY :

20th October.

TOTAL - - - 1 day.

SUMMARY.

SESSION II. of 1899.

(1.) The Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government Business had Precedence.	(2.) The Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had Precedence.	(3.) The Number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had Precedence.	(4.) The Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence under a Special Order of the House.	(5.) The Number of Saturday Sittings.	(6.) The Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence.	(7.) The Total Number of Days on which the House Sat.	(8.) The Total Number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.	(9.) Number of Days on which Business of Supply was considered.
TOTALS - 5*	0	3	5	0	8 *	9	0	1

* Excluding Tuesday, 17th October, first day of Meeting.

SESSION 1900.

(1.)—The Number of SITTINGS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence.

TUESDAY, 30th January. (First day of Meeting.)

TUESDAYS:

6th February.
13th February.
27th February
6th March.
13th March.
27th March.
22nd May.
*19th June.
26th June.
3rd July.
10th July.
17th July.
24th July.
31st July.
7th August.

TOTAL - - - 15 days.

*Days allotted to the Business of Supply.

WEDNESDAYS:

31st January.
7th February.
4th July.
11th July - - - House counted out at 10 minutes after 5 o'clock p.m.
18th July.
25th July - - - House sat until 7.30 o'clock p.m.
1st August - - - House sat until 5 minutes before 8 o'clock p.m.
8th August - - - House met at 10 o'clock a.m. (Prorogation).

TOTAL - - - 8 days.

(1) Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, &c.—*continued.*

FRIDAYS :

9th February.
16th February.
*23rd February.
*2nd March.
9th March.
*16th March.
23rd March.
30th March.
†6th April.
*27th April.
*4th May.
*11th May.
*18th May.
*25th May.
*15th June.
*22nd June.
*29th June.
*6th July.
*13th July.
*20th July.
*27th July.
*3rd August.

Total - - - 22 days.

* Days allotted to the Business of Supply.
† House counted out at a quarter past 11 o'clock.

(2.)—The Number of SITTINGS on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which PRIVATE MEMBERS had Precedence.

TUESDAYS :

*20th February.
†20th March - - - House counted out at half-past 7 o'clock.
3rd April.
1st May - - - House counted out at half-past 8 o'clock.
8th May - - - House counted out at 10 minutes before 9 o'clock.
‡15th May.

TOTAL - - - 6 days.

* After Second Reading of Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.
† After Second Reading of Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.
‡ After introduction of Government Bills

WEDNESDAYS :

14th February.
*21st February.
28th February.
7th March.
14th March.
†21st March.
28th March.
4th April.
2nd May.
‡9th May.
16th May.
23rd May.
20th June.
27th June.

TOTAL - - - 14 days.

* After Committee on Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.
† After Committee on Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.
‡ Notice being taken at Three o'clock that 40 Members were not present, the House wa told by Mr. Speaker, and 21 Members only being present, Mr. Speaker retired from th Chair until Four of the clock, when the House was again told by Mr. Speaker, and, Members only being present, the House was adjourned.

(2) Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, &c.—*continued.*

FRIDAYS:

2nd February.

TOTAL - - - 1 day.

3.)—The Number of OTHER SITTINGS at which, in accordance with the STANDING ORDERS of the HOUSE, GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence.

		TOTAL.
February:		
Mondays, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	4	8 days.
Thursdays, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd	4	
March:		
Mondays, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	4	9 days.
Thursdays, 1st,* 8th, 15th, 22nd,† 29th	5	
April:		
Mondays, 2nd, 9th,‡ 30th	3	5 days.
Thursdays, 5th, 26th*	2	
May:		
Mondays, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	4	8 days.
Thursdays, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th*	4	
June:		
Mondays, 18th, 25th	2	5 days.
Thursdays, 14th,* 21st, 28th	3	
July:		
Mondays, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th	5	9 days.
Thursdays, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	4	
August:		
Monday, 6th	1	2 days.
Thursday, 2nd*	1	
TOTAL for SESSION		46 days.

* Days allotted to the Business of Supply.

† On this day a Motion by a Private Member relative to the Financial Relations between England and Ireland had precedence of Government business.

‡ House adjourned till Thursday 26th April for Easter recess.

4.)—The Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence under a SPECIAL ORDER of the HOUSE.

6th February, 1900, page 38 of the Votes.

(*a*) Business of the House (Queen's Speech; Motion for an Address).—*Ordered*, That the Proceedings on the Address in answer to Her Majesty's Speech have precedence this day and To-morrow of the Notices of Motions and of the other Orders of the Day.

FEBRUARY.

(*a*) Tuesday	6th February.
(*a*) Wednesday	7th February

(4) Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence, &c.—*continued.*

12th February, 1900, page 78 of the Votes.

(*b*) Business of the House (Financial Business).—*Ordered,* That, until the end of the financial year, Financial Business do have precedence on Tuesday whenever set down by the Government, and that the provisions of Standing Order 56 be extended to that Day.

(*b*) Tuesday - - - - - - - 13th February.

(*c*) Business of the House (Supply).—*Ordered,* That so soon as the Committee of Supply has been appointed and Estimates have been presented, the Business of Supply shall (until it be disposed of) be the first Order of the Day on Friday, unless the House otherwise order on the Motion of a Minister of the Crown, moved at the commencement of Public Business to be decided without Amendment or Debate; and the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 shall be extended to Friday.

Not more than twenty days, being days before the 5th of August, on which the Speaker leaves the Chair for the Committee of Supply without Question put, counting from the first day on which the Speaker so left the Chair under Standing Order No. 56, shall be allotted for the consideration of the Annual Estimates for the Army, Navy, and Civil Services, including Votes on Account, the Business of Supply standing first Order on every such day.

Provided always, That on Motion made after Notice by a Minister of the Crown to be decided without Amendment or Debate, additional time, not exceeding three days, may be allotted for the Business of Supply, either before or after the 5th of August.

On the last but one of the allotted days, at 10 o'clock p.m., the Chairman shall proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in Committee of Supply; and on the last, not being earlier than the twentieth of the allotted days, the Speaker shall, at 10 o'clock p.m., proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply.

On the days appointed for concluding the Business of Supply, the consideration of such business shall not be anticipated by a Motion of Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17; nor may any dilatory Motion be moved on such proceedings; nor shall they be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

Provided always, That any additional Estimate for any new service or matter, not included in the original Estimates for the year, shall be submitted for consideration in the Committee of Supply on any day not later than two days before the Committee is closed.

Provided also, That the days occupied by the consideration of Estimates supplementary to those of a previous Session, or of any Vote of Credit, shall not be included in the computation of the twenty days. Provided also, That two Morning Sittings shall be deemed equivalent to one Three o'clock Sitting.

(*c*) Friday - - - - - - - - - 16th February.
(*c*) *Friday - - - - - - - - - 23rd February.
(*b*) Tuesday - - - - - - - - - 27th February.

TOTAL in February, 6 days.

MARCH.

(*c*) *Friday - - - - - - - - - - 2nd March
(*b*) Tuesday - - - - - - - - - - 6th March.

9th March, 1900, page 170 of the Votes.

(*d*) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (SUPPLY).—*Ordered,* That the other Government Business have precedence this day of the Committee of Supply.

(*d*) Friday - - - - - - - - - - 9th March.
(*b*) Tuesday - - - - - - - - - - 13th March.
(*c*)*Friday - - - - - - - - - - 16th March.
(*c*) Friday - - - - - - - - - - 23rd March.
(*b*) Tuesday - - - - - - - - - 27th March.
(*c*)*Friday - - - - - - - - - - 30th March.

TOTAL in March, 8 days.

(4) Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence, &c.—*continued.*

APRIL.

6th April, 1900, page 277 of the Votes.

(*e*) Business of the House (Supply).—*Ordered*, That the other Government Business have recedence this day of the Committee of Supply.

(*e*) Friday	6th April.
(*c*)*Friday	27th April.

TOTAL in April, 2 days.

* Days allotted to the Business of Supply.

MAY.

(*c*) *Friday, 4th May.
(*c*) *Friday, 11th May.
(*c*) *Friday, 18th May.

22nd May, 1900, page 407 of the Votes.

(*f*) Business of the House (Orders of the Day).—*Ordered*, That the proceedings on the aritable Loans (Ireland) Bill have precedence this day of the Notices of Motions and the other rders of the Day.

(*f*) Tuesday, 22nd May.
(*c*) *Friday, 25th May.

TOTAL in May, 5 days.

JUNE.

(*c*) *Friday	15th June.

18th June, 1900, page 461 of the Votes.

(*g*) *Ordered*, That for the remainder of the Session Government Business do have preced- ce on Tuesday and Wednesday (except on Wednesdays the 20th and 27th of June), and at the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to all the days of the week.

(*g*) *Tuesday	19th June.
(*c*) *Friday	22nd June.
(*g*) Tuesday	26th June.
(*c*) Friday	29th June.

TOTAL in June, 5 days.

JULY.

(*g*) Tuesday	5th July.
(*g*) Wednesday	4th July.
(*c*) *Friday	6th July.
(*g*) Tuesday	10th July.
(*g*) Wednesday	11th July.
(*c*) *Friday	13th July.
(*g*) *Tuesday	17th July.
(*g*) Wednesday	18th July.
(*c*) *Friday	20th July.
(*g*) Tuesday	24th July
(*g*) Wednesday	25th July.

16th July, 1900, page 612 of the Votes.

h) Business of the House (Supply).—*Ordered*, That three additional days be allotted to the siness of Supply.

(*h*) *Friday	27th July.
(*g*) Tuesday	31st July.

TOTAL in July, 13 days.

(4) Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence, &c.—*continued.*

AUGUST.

(*g*) Wednesday - - - - - - - - -	1st August.
(*h*) *Friday - - - - - - - - -	3rd August.
(*g*) Tuesday - - - - - - - - -	7th August.
(*g*) Wednesday - - - - - - - - -	8th August.

TOTAL in August, 4 days.

TOTAL during the SESSION, 43 days.

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* Days allotted to the Business of Supply.

(5.)—The Number of SATURDAY SITTINGS.

Nil.

(6.)—The Total Number of SITTINGS at which GOVERNMENT BUSINESS had Precedence:—

91 days, exclusive of Tuesday, 31st January, the first day of meeting.

(7.)—The Total Number of DAYS on which the House sat - - 113.

(8.)—The Total Number of MOTIONS for ADJOURNMENT of the HOUSE on a Matter of Urgent PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

Name of Member who Moved the Adjournment.	Date.	Question Discussed.	Result of Motion.
Sir Thomas Reid -	15th March 1900	Disturbances directed against opponents of the war in South Africa.	Negatived on Division (Ayes, 120; Noes 229).
Mr. Havelock Wilson	30th March -	Alien seamen in British ships.	Negatived without a Division.
Mr. T. M. Healy -	18th May - -	Final Court of Appeal (Irish Representation).	Negatived on Division (Ayes, 99; Noes 144).
Mr. Pritchard Morgan	3rd July - -	British Legation at Pekin.	Withdrawn.
Mr. Labouchere - -	5th July - -	South African War (Inquiry into Treatment of Sick and Wounded).	Withdrawn.
Sir Thomas Esmonde -	9th July - -	County and District Surveyors (Wexford). Action of Local Government Board.	Negatived on Division (Ayes, 114; Noes 199).

TOTAL - - - 6.

(9.)—The Number of DAYS on which Business of Supply was considered.

SESSION 1900.

Ionday - - - -	12th February.	*Friday - - - -	18th May.
uesday - - - -	13th February.	*Thursday - - -	24th May.
hursday - - -	15th February.	*Friday - - - -	25th May.
riday - - - -	16th February.	*Thursday - - -	14th June.
hursday - - -	22nd February.	*Friday - - - -	15th June.
riday - - - -	23rd February.	*Tuesday - - -	19th June.
uesday - - - -	27th February.	*Friday - - - -	22nd June.
hursday - - -	1st March.	*Friday - - - -	29th June.
riday - - - -	2nd March.	*Friday - - - -	6th July.
hursday - - -	8th March.	*Friday - - - -	13th July.
riday - - - -	9th March.	*Tuesday - - -	17th July.
Ionday - - - -	12th March.	*Friday - - - -	20th July.
uesday - - - -	13th March.	Wednesday - - -	25th July.
hursday - - -	15th March.	† 16th July 1900, page 612 of the Votes.	
riday - - - -	16th March.	Business of the House (Supply).—	
riday - - - -	30th March.	*Ordered*, That three additional days	
hursday - - -	26th April.	be allotted to the Business of Supply.	
riday - - - -	27th April.	*†Friday - - -	27th July.
riday - - - -	4th May.	*†Thursday - -	2nd August.
riday - - - -	11th May.	†Friday - - -	3rd August.

TOTAL - - - 36 days.

* Days on which Supply was considered in Committee under Orders of the 15th February and 16th July, 1900

† Report of Supply was taken on Friday, 3rd August—the last of these three days.

SUMMARY.

SESSION 1900.

(1.) The umber of ittings on uesdays, ednesdays, and ridays at which vernment Business had ecedence.	(2.) The Number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had Precedence.	(3.) The Number of other Sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government Business had Precedence.	(4.) The Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence under a Special Order of the House.	(5.) The Number of Saturday Sittings.	(6.) The Total Number of Sittings at which Government Business had Precedence.	(7.) The Total Number of Days on which the House Sat.	(8.) The Total Number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.	(9.) Number of Days on which Business of Supply was considered.
TALS 45*	21	46	43	0	91*	113	61	36†

* Excluding Tuesday, 30th January, first day of Meeting.

† The Number of Days in Committee of Supply was 35.

9th August, 1900.

William H. Ley,
Clerk of the Journals.

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.

RETURN of the Number of DIVISIONS of THE HOUSE in Session II. of 1899 and in the Session of 1900; stating the Subject of the Division, and the Number of Members in the Majority and Minority, Tellers included; also, the AGGREGATE NUMBER in the House on each Division, distinguishing the DIVISIONS on PUBLIC BUSINESS from PRIVATE; and also the Number of Divisions before and after Midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.278, of Session I. of 1899).

SUMMARY OF DIVISIONS.

SESSION II. 1899.

Number of Divisions on PUBLIC BUSINESS before Midnight - -	17
Ditto - - - - after Midnight - -	1
TOTAL Number of Divisions in Session II. 1899 - -	18

DIVISIONS ON PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1899:						
3	Oct. 18	Business of the House (Government Business.)—" That during the Autumn Sittings no Motions for leave to bring in Bills be given except by a Minister of the Crown; that on every day Government business do have precedence, and at the conclusion thereof Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put; and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to all the days of the week."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	281	50	332	B. M.	
18	,, 25	Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill —That the Bill be now read a second time.	226	30	257	B. M.	
1	,, 17	Elections.—" That it is a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of the United Kingdom for any Lord of Parliament, or other Peer or Prelate, not being a Peer of Ireland at the time elected, and not	339	78	418	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1899 :						
		Elections.—*cont.* having declined to serve for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, to concern himself in the election of Members to serve for the Commons in Parliament, except only any Peer of Ireland, at such elections in Great Britain respectively where such Peer shall appear as a Candidate, or by himself or any others, be proposed to be elected ; or for any Lord Lieutenant or Governor of any county to avail himself of any authority derived from his Commission, to influence the Election of any Member to serve for the Commons in Parliament."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words from the word "Kingdom," in line 2, to the word "for," in line 8.—(*Mr. James Lowther.*)—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."					
6	Oct. 20	Militia.—Her Majesty's message *considered.* — Message again read.—Address in answer.—Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty, that inasmuch as there are only about 40,000 adult males in the two South African Republics, and that these are not trained soldiers, the embodiment of the Militia Reserve is unnecessary, and that the forces already at the disposal of Your Majesty are amply sufficient for the emergency."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—Question put, "That those words be there added."	38	301	340	B. M.	
2	,, 17	Queen's Speech (Address in answer).—Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty that the state of war now existing between Great Britain and the South African Republic has been caused by the assertion of claims to interfere in the internal government of the Republic in direct violation of the terms of Your Majesty's Convention of 1884 with the Government of the South African Republic ; and by the massing of large bodies of British troops on the frontiers of the Republic. And we further humbly represent to Your Majesty that before more bloodshed takes place proposals should be made in the spirit of the	56	324	381	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1899:	Queen's Speech (Address in answer)—*cont.* recent Peace Conference at the Hague, with a view to finding in an independent and friendly arbitration a settlement of the difficulties between the two Governments, and that an ignominious war may thus be avoided between the overwhelming forces of Your Majesty's Empire and those of two small nations numbering altogether but two hundred thousand souls."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—Question put, "That those words be there added."					
4	Oct. 19	———Another Amendment proposed at the end of the Question, to add the words "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty our strong disapproval of the conduct of the negotiations with the Government of the Transvaal which have involved us in hostilities with the two South African Republics."—(*Mr. Philip Stanhope.*)—Question proposed, "That those words be there added."—And, it being Midnight, Mr. Speaker proceeded to interrupt the Business. Whereupon Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	358	160	519	B. M.	
5	„ „	————Question put - - - -	137	364	502	—	A. M.
10	„ 3	Sittings of the House (Exemption from the Standing Order).—"That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee be sitting at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	273	42	316	B. M.	
7	„ 20	(Supply.) — (In Committee.) — Further number of Land Forces.—That the Question be now put.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	196	44	241	B. M.	
8	„ „	————Question put - - - -	202	37	240	B. M.	
9	„ „	(Supply). — £10,000,000 Supplementary for Army Services.	273	34	308	B. M.	
13	„ 23	Supply — (Report.) — Number of Land Forces,—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Resolution."	335	31	367	B. M.	
14	„ „	————£10,000,000 Supplementary for Army Services.—That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Resolution. — Debate arising. Mr.	318	28	347	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1899:	Supply.—*cont.* Patrick O'Brien, Member for Kilkenny City, having been named by Mr. Speaker for refusing to withdraw a disorderly expression he had used in the Debate. Motion made, and question put, "That Mr. Patrick O'Brien be suspended from the Service of the House."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)					
15	Oct. 23	————That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Resolution.	310	31	342	B. M.	
11	,, ,,	Ways and Means in Committee.—"That towards raising the supply granted to Her Majesty, the Treasury be authorised to raise any sum not exceeding eight million pounds by the issue of Treasury Bills."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)	338	30	369	B. M.	
12	,, ,,	————"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of 10,000,000*l.* be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)	338	29	368	B. M.	
16	,, 24	Ways and Means Report.—Issue Treasury Bills.—That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Resolution.	239	27	267	B. M.	
17	,, ,,	Consolidated Fund.—That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Resolution.	257	25	283	B. M.	

SUMMARY OF DIVISIONS.

SESSION 1900.

Number of Divisions on PUBLIC BUSINESS before Midnight - -	222
Ditto - - - - after Midnight - -	50
Ditto PRIVATE BUSINESS before Midnight - -	18
Ditto - - - - after Midnight - -	—
Total Number of Divisions in Session 1900 - -	290

67	1900: Mar. 15	Adjournment.—Sir Robert Reid, Member for Dumfries, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent	122	231	354	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Adjournment.—*cont.* public importance, viz., "the recent serious disturbances in many parts of the country;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen. — Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)					
127	May 18	Adjournment of the House.—Mr. T. M. Healy, Member for North Louth, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the refusal of Her Majesty's present Advisers to recognise the just claim of Ireland to representation in the Final Court of Appeal for the three Kingdoms, and the breach of constitutional usage involved in the appointment of an English Judge to the vacancy created by the resignation of the Irish Law Lord;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen. — Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)	101	146	248	B. M.	
140	" 28	Adjournment of the House (Whitsuntide.)—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House at its rising do adjourn till Thursday, 14th June, and that so soon as Government business is disposed of this day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—After Debate thereon, Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	189	69	259	B. M.	
188	July 9	Adjournment.—Sir Thomas Esmonde, Member for Kerry (West Division), rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the recent action of the Local Government Board for Ireland in	116	201	318	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Adjournment.—*cont.* raising the salaries and qualifications of the County and District Surveyors in county Wexford, and in endeavouring to enforce the payment of these increased salaries as from to-morrow, by sealed order notwithstanding the protests of the County Council;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen.—Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)					
100	Apr. 9	Agricultural Holdings Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "it is desirable that legislation relating to agricultural holdings in Scotland should proceed on the lines hitherto followed; and that it is highly unsatisfactory to legislate on that subject for England and for Scotland in one and the same measure."—(*Mr. Ure.*)—Instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	117	32	150	B. M.	
01	" "	———— "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c."—(*Mr. Long.*)	112	37	150	B. M	
68	July 2	———— As amended (by the Standing Committee).—A Clause (Record of condition of holding,)—(*Mr. Channing*)—*brought up*, and read the first time.—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be read a second time."	48	144	193	B. M.	
00	" 10	———— A Clause (Compensation for disturbance,) — (*Mr. Channing*) — *brought up*, and read the first time.—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause be read a second time."	113	209	323	B. M.	
01	" "	———— Another Clause (Crofters' improvements in non-crofting counties)—(*Mr. Gordon*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	125	198	324	B. M.	
02	" "	———— Page 1, line 6.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	172	93	266	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Agricultural Holdings Bill.—*cont.*					
203	July 10	———— Page 1, line 12.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)	78	136	215	B. M.	
204	" "	———— Page 1, line 12.—Another Amendment.—(*Sir Charles Welby.*)	26	188	215	B. M.	
205	" "	———— Page 1, line 27.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Channing.*)	65	176	242	B. M.	
206	" 11	———— Page 2, line 10.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Channing.*)	170	72	243	B. M.	
207	" "	———— Page 2, line 39.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	191	79	271	B. M.	
208	" "	———— Page 3, line 34.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	172	73	246	B. M.	
209	" "	———— "That further proceedings on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), be adjourned till to-morrow."—(*Mr. Fletcher Moulton.*)—Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	139	52	192	B. M.	
210	" "	Question put accordingly - - -	140	49	190	B. M.	
212	" 12	————Page 4, line 26, to leave out Clause 10.—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."	224	107	332	B. M.	
213	" "	———— Page 6, line 8.—Another Amendment.—(*Earl Percy.*)	233	55	289	B. M.	
214	" "	———— Page 6, line 19.—Another Amendment.—(*Sir William Wedderburn.*)	62	128	191	B. M.	
215	" "	———— Page 6, line 26.—Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Seale Hayne.*)	47	114	162	B. M.	
284	Aug. 6	———— Lords Amendments *considered* :—Page 1, line 12.—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	96	56	153	B. M.	
285	" "	———— Page 6, line 8.—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	98	58	157	B. M.	
286	" "	———— Page 6, line 10.—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	97	59	157	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
287	Aug. 6	Agricultural Holdings Bill.—*cont.* ——— Page 6, line 17.—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	101	60	162	B. M.	
149	June 20	Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read the third time."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)—Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. James Lowther.*)	28	149	178	B. M.	
11	Feb. 12	Business of the House (Financial Business).—That, until the end of the financial year, Financial Business do have precedence on Tuesday whenever set down by the Government, and that the provisions of Standing Order 56 be extended to that day."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	296	42	339	B. M.	
13	Feb. 15	Business of the House (Supply)—"That, so soon as the Committee of Supply has been appointed and Estimates have been presented, the Business of Supply shall (until it be disposed of) be the first Order of the day on Friday, unless the House otherwise order on the Motion of a Minister of the Crown moved at the commencement of Public Business, to be decided without Amendment or Debate; and the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 shall be extended to Friday. Not more than twenty days, being days before the 5th of August, on which the Speaker leaves the Chair for the Committee of Supply without Question put, counting from the first day on which the Speaker so left the Chair under Standing Order No. 56, shall be allotted for the consideration of the Annual Estimates for the Army, Navy, and Civil Services, including Votes on Account, the Business of Supply standing first Order on every such day: Provided always, that on Motion made after Notice by a Minister of the Crown to be decided without Amendment or Debate, additional time, not exceeding three days, may be allotted for the Business of Supply, either before or after the 5th of August. On the last but one of the allotted days, at Ten o'clock p.m., the Chairman shall proceed to put forthwith every	138	232	371	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Business of the House (Supply).—*cont.* Question necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in Committee of Supply; and on the last, not being earlier than the twentieth of the allotted days, the Speaker shall, at Ten o'clock p.m., proceed to put forthwith every Question necessary to complete the outstanding Reports of Supply: On the days appointed for concluding the Business of Supply, the consideration of such business shall not be anticipated by a Motion of Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17; nor may any dilatory Motion be moved on such proceedings; nor shall they be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House: Provided always that any additional Estimate for any new service or matter, not included in the original Estimates for the year, shall be submitted for consideration in the Committee of Supply on any day not later than two days before the Committee is closed: Provided also that the days occupied by the consideration of Estimates supplementary to those of a previous Session, or of any Vote of Credit, shall not be included in the computation of the twenty days: Provided also that two Morning Sittings shall be deemed equivalent to one Three o'clock Sitting."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—Another Amendment proposed, in line 8, after the word "twenty," to insert the word "two."—(*Mr. Strachey.*)—Question put, "That the word 'two' be there inserted."					
14	Feb. 15	Main Question put - - - - - -	305	64	370	B. M.	
145	June 18	Business of the House (Government Business).—"That for the remainder of the Session Government Business do have precedence on Tuesday and Wednesday (except on Wednesdays the 20th and 27th of June), and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to all the days of the week."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—Amendment proposed, in line 3, to leave out the word "Tuesday" and insert the word "Tuesdays,"—(*Mr. Channing.*)—instead thereof.—Question put, "That the word 'Tuesday' stand part of the Question."	238	120	359	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
1900:						
June 18	Business of the House (Government Business).—*cont.* ——— Another Amendment proposed, after the word "on," to insert the words "Tuesday the 19th and."—(*Mr. Edward Morton.*)—Question put, "That those words be there inserted."	95	252	348	B. M.	
July 16	Business of the House (Government Business).—Motion made and Question put, "That for the remainder of the Session, Government Business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed, and that at the conclusion of Government Business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	242	116	359	B. M.	
Mar. 15	Census (Great Britain) Bill.—"That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to divide the Bill into two Bills, one extending to England and the other extending to Scotland."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	54	127	182	B. M.	
,, ,,	——— (In Committee).—Clause 4.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Lloyd George.*)	166	56	223	B. M.	
May 16	Cheap Trains Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Jackson.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	145	174	320	B. M.	
May 23	Committees (Ascension Day).—"That Committees do not sit to-morrow, being Ascension Day, until two of the clock."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	108	102	211	B. M.	
June 26	Companies Bill, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c."—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)	140	54	195	B. M.	
July 24	——— As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.—Page 2, line 31.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)	170	111	282	B. M.	
,, ,,	——— Page 5, line 38, to leave out Clause 10.—Amendment.—*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)	162	34	197	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Companies Bill.—*cont.*					
236	July 24	——— Page 5, line 38.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)—Amendment to the proposed Amendment.—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)	138	63	201	B. M.	
237	,, ,,	——— Page 6, line 4.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Henderson.*)	46	130	177	B. M.	
238	,, ,,	——— Page 6, line 33.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)	37	109	147	—	A. M.
239	,, ,,	——— "That further proceedings on consideration, as amended, be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)—But it appearing to Mr. Speaker that the Motion was an abuse of the Rules of the House, he put the Question thereon forthwith to the House.	34	103	138	—	A. M.
240	,, ,,	——— Page 6, line 37.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Harry Foster.*)	104	20	125	—	A. M.
247	,, 30	——— Page 9, line 15.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)	104	66	171	B. M.	
248	,, ,,	——— Page 9, line 18.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Sydney Gedge.*)	44	99	144	B. M.	
249	,, ,,	——— Page 10, line 8.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)	74	115	190	B. M.	
250	,, ,,	——— Page 11, line 38.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Banbury.*)	152	31	184	B. M.	
251	,, ,,	——— Page 17, line 13.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Lawson Walton.*)	25	67	93	—	A. M.
288	Aug. 6	——— "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)—Question put, "that the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	129	25	155	B. M.	
289	,, ,,	——— Lords Amendment. Page 6, line 18.—"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	95	59	155	B. M.	
28	Feb. 20	Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."	290	39	330	B. M.	
30	,, 21	——— (In Committee.)—"That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."	151	25	177	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—*cont.*					
33	Feb. 22	———— "That the Bill be now read the third time."—"That the Question be now put."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	257	54	312	B. M.	
34	,, ,,	———— Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be now read the third time."	276	35	312	B. M.	
74	Mar. 20	Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."	276	32	309	B. M.	
75	,, 21	———— (In Committee). — "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."	100	12	113	B. M.	
89	,, 28	Corporal Punishment Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan.*)—Question put, "that the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	74	197	272	B. M.	
95	April 3	Distress in India.—"That, in view of the grievous sufferings which are again afflicting the people of India, and the extreme impoverishment of large masses of the population, a searching inquiry should be instituted in order to ascertain the causes which impair the cultivators' power to resist the attacks of famine and plague; and to suggest the best preventive measures against future famines."—(*Sir William Wedderburn.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "this House, while deeply sympathising with its Indian fellow subjects in the sufferings which plague and famine have inflicted upon them, is of opinion that it may safely be left to the Government of India to carry out any modification of the land tenure and industrial system which experience may have shown to be likely to mitigate the effects of famine and epidemic disease." — (*Sir Lewis M'Iver.*) — Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	74	157	232	B. M.	
118	May 8	Duration of Speeches in Parliament.—Motion made, and Question put, "That no Speech (other than those delivered by Ministers or Ex-Ministers, or by the mover of a Bill or Resolution) shall exceed 20 minutes in length."—(*Major Rasch.*)	93	139	233	B. M	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
244	July 26	East India Revenue Accounts.—"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "looking to the special needs of the famine-stricken people in India at the present time, this House recognises that funds are urgently required to feed, clothe, and house the cultivators in their villages until their crops are ripe; to provide them with plough cattle, seed, and other requisites of cultivation; and to restore them to their normal economic condition; that these requirements cannot be adequately met from Indian revenues raised from the suffering Indian people, and within the necessarily restricted field of ordinary relief operations; that the funds subscribed by charity are altogether insufficient for these purposes; and this House is therefore of opinion that a large and generous free grant should be provided to assist in meeting this unprecedented calamity."—(*Mr. Souttar.*)—Instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	114	67	182	—	A. M.
93	April 2	Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Ure.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	127	85	213	B. M.	
94	,, ,,	———— "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, &c."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)	102	67	170	B. M.	
147	June 18	———— "That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now read the third time," and add the words "re-committed in respect of a New Clause,"—(*Sir Charles Cameron,*)—instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words 'now read the third time' stand part of the Question."	147	57	205	B. M.	
148	,, ,,	———— Main Question put - -	156	63	220	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
108	May 3	Education Department (Code, 1900).—"That, in the opinion of this House, the proposals contained in the Code of Regulations for Day Schools and in the Minutes of the Board of Education laid before Parliament during the present Session are conducive to the interests of education."—(*Mr. Jebb.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "this House approves the adoption of the principle of the block grant contained in the New Code, and the establishment, under the Minute, of higher elementary schools, but is of opinion that the educational proposals of the Department contain provisions which are not conducive to the best interests of education," (*Mr. Alfred Hutton,*)—instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	190	107	298	B. M.	
1	Jan. 30	Elections.—"That it is a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of the United Kingdom for any Lord of Parliament, or other Peer or Prelate, not being a Peer of Ireland at the time elected, and not having declined to serve for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, to concern himself in the election of members to serve for the Commons in Parliament, except only any Peer of Ireland, at such elections in Great Britain respectively where such Peer shall appear as a candidate, or by himself or any others, be proposed to be elected; or for any Lord Lieutenant or Governor of any county to avail himself of any authority derived from his Commission, to influence the Election of any Member to serve for the Commons in Parliament."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words from the word "Kingdom," in line 2. to the word "for," in line 8.—(*Mr. James Lowther.*)—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	339	103	443	B. M.	
71	Mar. 15	Electoral Disabilities (Military Service) Bill.—(In Committee.)—Clause 1.—"That the Clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."	157	49	207	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :						
252	July 31	Elementary Education Bill.—"That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now read the third time," and add the words "re-committed in respect of Clauses 1 and 2."—(*Mr. Mendl.*)—Question put, "That the words 'now read the third time' stand part of the Question."	139	92	232	B. M.	
31	Feb. 21	Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Colonel Saunderson.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	138	234	373	B. M.	
254	July 31	Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."	127	36	164	B. M.	
261	August 1	———— (In Committee.)—Schedule.—Amendment.—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)	138	70	209	B. M.	
114	May 7	Factories and Workshops Acts (Use of Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches).—Motion made, and Question put, "That, in the opinion of this House, the Special Rules with regard to the employment of persons in Lucifer Match Factories, in which white or yellow phosphorus is used, ought to be annulled [58 & 59 Vict., c. 37, s. 28 (1)]."—(*Captain Norton.*)	39	100	140	—	A. M.
73	Mar. 19	Finance Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."	184	32	217	B. M.	
79	" 26	———— (In Committee.)—Clause 1.—Amendment.—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)	206	51	258	B. M.	
80	" "	———— (In Committee.)—Clause 1.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Lough.*)	137	64	202	B. M.	
81	" "	———— "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."	174	71	245	B. M.	
82	" "	———— Clause 2.—Amendment.—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)	212	38	251	B. M.	
83	" "	———— "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."	181	31	213	—	A. M.
84	" 27	———— Clause 6.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Flynn.*)	263	42	306	B. M.	
85	" "	———— "That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."	225	33	259	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
86	Mar. 27	Finance Bill.—Clause 7.—Amendment.—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)	148	38	187	B. M.	
87	„ „	——— "That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."	128	38	167	B. M.	
88	„ „	——— Clause 13.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Maurice Healy.*)	31	167	199	B. M.	
91	„ 29	——— New Clause (Conveyance on sale).—(*Mr. Bond.*)	220	39	260	B. M.	
92	„ „	——— "That the Chairman do report the Bill as amended to the House."	231	30	262	B. M.	
99	April 6	——— "That the Bill be now read the third time."	105	18	124	B. M.	
76	Mar. 22	Financial Relations (England and Ireland).—"That in the economic circumstances of Ireland the disproportion between the taxation of Ireland and its taxable capacity, disclosed by the findings of the Royal Commission, demands the serious attention of the Government, with a view to a remedy."—(*Mr. Arthur O'Connor.*)	104	222	327	B. M.	
154	June 25	Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill.—(In Committee.)—Clause 1.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)	134	206	341	B. M.	
155	„ „	——— Clause 2.—Amendment.—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)	167	107	275	B. M.	
156	„ „	——— Clause 2.—Another Amendment.—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)	82	132	215	B. M.	
157	„ „	——— Clause 3.—Amendment.—(*Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.*)	122	71	194	B. M.	
158	„ „	——— New Clause (Extension of time fixed for repayment of loans raised by local authorities.)—(*Mr. Hazell.*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	71	143	215	B. M.	
159	„ „	——— Another Clause (Hiring powers).—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	83	149	233	B. M.	
160	„ „	——— Another Clause (Lease by local authority for building lodging-houses).—(*Mr. Whitmore.*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	167	86	254	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

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	1900 :						
161	June 25	Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill—*cont.* ——— Another Clause (Arbitration as to price of land).—(*Mr. Channing.*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	80	163	244	B. M.	
167	July 2	——— As Amended—Considered.—Another Clause (compensation in respect of compulsory purchase of land).—(*Mr. Channing*) brought up and read the first time. — Motion made and Question put, "That the Clause be read a second time."	98	152	251	B. M.	
216	June 12	——— "That the Bill be now read the third time." And it being Midnight Mr. Speaker proceeded to interrupt the business, whereupon Mr. Chaplin rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put." Question put, "That the Question be now put."	110	40	151	—	A. M.
283	Aug. 6	Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill. — Lords Amendments *considered*, page 1, line 24, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	90	58	149	B. M.	
233	Jul 3	Imitation of County Court Process Bill [H.L.].—"That the Bill be now read a second time."	115	13	129	—	A. M.
245	" 26	Intermediate Education (Ireland).—(In Committee.)—Clause 3.—Amendment.—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)	75	19	95	—	A. M.
290	Aug. 7	Local Government (Ireland) Bill.—Lords Amendments *considered*, page 2, line 23, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."	102	61	164	B. M.	
12	Feb. 14	Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, Amendment Bill, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	128	218	347	B. M.	
107	May 1	Local Taxation.—"That, having regard to the heavy and increasing burden of local taxation in urban and certain other districts, the House urges upon the Government the necessity of forthwith redressing the undoubted grievances from which many ratepayers suffer."—(*Mr. Nussey.*)	100	142	243	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :						
135	May 23	London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) Bill. — "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Boulnois.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	250	131	382	B. M.	
77	Mar. 22	Lunacy Board (Scotland) [Salaries, &c.].—Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the number of the Staff of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of their salaries, and of the expenses of the Board, and the remuneration of the Chairman and Commissioners."—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	117	40	158	—	A. M.
62	" 9	Midwives Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Debate arising.—Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)	58	129	188	B. M.	
63	Mar. 9	Midwives Bill.—Original Question put -	126	36	162	B. M.	
230	July 23	Military Lands Bill [H.L.].—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	188	49	238	B. M.	
45	Feb. 28	Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Sir James Joicey.*) Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."—After Debate thereon.—Mr. Herbert Lewis rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put." — Question put, "That the Question be now put."	259	120	380	B. M.	
46	" "	———— Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	177	201	379	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
119	May	Ministers of the Crown as Directors of Public Companies. — Motion made, and Question put, "That, in the opinion of this House, the position of a Public Company Director is incompatible with the position of a Minister of the Crown, and the union of such offices is calculated to lower the dignity of public life."—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)	73	84	158	B. M.	
164	June 26	Money-lending Bill [H.L.].—"That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)	152	49	202	B. M.	
211	July 12	———— "That the Order [26th June] that the Money-lending Bill [H.L.] be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., be read, and discharged; and that the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, &c."—(*Sir William Walrond.*) —Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "discharged," to the end of the Question. —(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*) — Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	230	63	294	B. M.	
255	" 31	Money-lending Bill [H.L.]. (As amended by the Standing Committee) *considered.* Amendment, page 1, line 14.—(*Mr. Lawrence Walton.*)	101	34	136	—	A. M.
256	" "	———— Another Amendment, page 1, line 25.—(*Mr. Harry Foster.*)	7	106	114	—	A. M.
257	" "	———— Another Amendment, page 2, line 15.—(*Mr. Butcher.*)	14	93	108	—	A. M.
258	" "	———— "That further proceedings on consideration, as amended, be adjourned."—(*Mr. Harry Foster.*)	21	67	89	—	A. M.
98	Apr. 5	Municipal Trading. — "That a Select Committee of Five Members of this House be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider and report as to the principles which should govern powers given by Bills and Provisional Orders to municipal and other local authorities for industrial enterprise within or without the area of their jurisdiction." — (*Mr. Anstruther.*) Question again proposed. —Debate *resumed.*—Amendment made, by inserting, after the word "House," the words "to be nominated by the	143	69	213	—	A. M.

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Municipal Trading—*cont.* Committee of Selection.")—*Lord Balcarres.*)—Main Question, as amended, put.					
113	May 7	Naval Reserve (Mobilisation Bill) (In Committee)—Clause 1.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)	45	128	174	B. M.	
44	Feb. 27	Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2) Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [13th February], " That the Bill be now read a second time," Question again proposed:—Debate *resumed.* — Whereupon Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do now adjourn.—*Mr. Caldwell.*)	99	65	165	B. M.	
225	July 18	Post Office Sites (re-committed Bill).—"That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."	161	121	283	B. M.	
116	May 8	Privilege. — Complaint made by Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Member for Kilkenny City, of certain passages in a letter written by Messrs. Rees and Hindley, Solicitors, and forwarded to every Member of Parliament. The said letter was handed in, and the passages complained of were read, as followeth :— 43, Castle St., Liverpool, 7th May, 1900. Army Contract Scandals. Rees and Hindley, Solicitors. " Dear Sir, "Below is copy letter of even date forwarded by us to Mr. Powell-Williams, M.P., herein :— " As you are aware we act for Mr. John Brown, of Brunswick Street, Liverpool, against whom allegations have been made with regard to the quality of hay supplied by him to Her Majesty's transports. Our client's extensive dealings with the War Office, and more particularly the circumstances connected with the hay shipped on Her Majesty's transport, 'Manchester Port,' will be a subject matter for inquiry by the Select Committee on Government Contracting recently appointed. * * * " Further, it was Mr. Houston, despite the fact that a Board of Officers at Tilbury passed the hay on the 'Manchester Port,' who refused to allow the vessel to sail, it was chartered by you from him, until the hay	194	102	297	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

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	1900 :	Privilege.—*cont.* had been unloaded. Why, therefore, should he who has prejudged our client be allowed to sit in biassed judgment upon him? We hope to examine him before the Committee, and it is common knowledge to yourself and ourselves that he will be an important witness."					
		Motion made and question put, "That, in the opinion of this House, the passages in the letter of Messrs. Rees and Hindley, read at the Table of the House, constitute a breach of the Privileges of this House."—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)					
117	May 8	————"That Messrs. Rees and Hindley do attend at the Bar of this House on Thursday next, at Three of the clock."—(*Mr. James Lowther.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "this House do now proceed to the Business of the Day"—(*Mr. Balfour.*)—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	141	194	336	B. M.	
2	Feb. 1	Queen's Speech (Address in Answer).—Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly express our regret at the want of knowledge, foresight, and judgment displayed by Your Majesty's advisers, alike, in their conduct of South African Affairs since 1895, and in their preparations for the war now proceeding."—(*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*)—Question proposed, "That those words be there added."—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)	137	157	295	B. M.	
3	,, 6	————Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."—Question put.	141	354	496	—	A. M.
4	,, 7	———— Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty that the time has come when the war at present being waged in South Africa should be brought to a close, on the basis of recognising the independence of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State"	68	370	439	B.M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Queen's Speech—*cont.* —(*Mr. John Redmond.*) — Question put, "That those words be there added."					
5	Feb. 8	——— Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty that in view of the continued increase in the deer forest area in the Highland crofting counties, it is desirable, in order to prevent a still further depopulation of the Highlands, that the benefits of the Crofters Act, 1886, should be extended to all crofter tenants holding under lease at the time of the passing of the Act; and we regret to observe that there is no indication in Your Majesty's Speech that arrangements will be made for the settling of Highland crofters, cottars, and fishermen on some portion of the 1,782,785 acres of land which in March 1895 Your Majesty's Commissioners scheduled as deer forests, grouse moors, &c., which might be cultivated to profit, or otherwise advantageously occupied by crofters or small tenants." — (*Mr. Weir.*)—Question put, "That those words be there added."	115	188	303	B. M.	
7	,, 9	——— Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words,—"But we humbly represent to Your Majesty, that the over taxation of Ireland, which promises to become greatly aggravated by the expenditure on the War in South Africa, is a most serious and pressing grievance, and demands the early attention of Parliament with a view to its removal."—(*Mr. Clancy.*)—Question put, "That those words be there added."	79	202	282	B. M.	
8	,, ,,	———Another Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words,—"But we humbly represent to Your Majesty, that the administration of the Irish Land Acts is not satisfactory to any class of Your Majesty's Irish subjects, and that the only and permanent solution of the Irish Land question must be found in a measure providing for the general and immediate creation of an occupying proprietary in that country."—	77	211	289	—	A.M.

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Queen's Speech—*cont.* (*Mr. Daly.*) — Question put, "That those words be there added."					
9	Feb. 9	———Main Question again proposed. —Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	217	66	284	—	A. M.
10	" "	———Main Question put accordingly.	231	41	273	—	A. M.
141	May 28	Railways (Prevention of Accidents) Bill. —As Amended (by the Standing Committee), *considered.*—Another Amendment proposed, in page 4, line 31, to leave out the words "in priority to or." —(*Mr. Banbury.*) — Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."—The House.	106	37	144	—	A. M.
142	" "	———Another Amendment proposed, in page 5, line 22, to leave out the word "public."—(*Mr. John Burns.*) Question put, "That the word 'public' stand part of the Bill."	81	41	122	—	A. M.
151	June 21	———"That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now read the third time," and add the words "re-committed in respect of Clause 19,"—(*Mr. Caldwell,*)—instead thereof.—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	216	111	328	B. M.	
112	May 7	Sea Fisheries Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time"; Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." —(*Sir Cameron Gull.*)—Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."—Debate *resumed.*—Question put.	182	35	218	B. M.	
130	" 21	——— (Nomination of Select Committee), Mr. Vaughan-Davies, Mr. George Doughty, and Mr. Harry Foster *nominated* Members of the Committee.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That General Goldsworthy be another Member of the Committee." —(*Sir William Walrond.*)—And, the Motion being opposed, after a brief statement from a Member who	214	79	294	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Sea Fisheries Bill—*cont.* opposed it, Mr. Speaker put the Question in pursuance of Standing Order No. 16.					
131	May 21	——— "That Five be the quorum of the Committee."—(*Sir William Walrond.*)—And, the Motion being opposed, after a brief statement from a Member who opposed it, Mr. Speaker put the Question in pursuance of Standing Order No. 16.	186	118	305	B. M.	
60	Mar. 6	Shops Bill.—Order for Second Reading read. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Whereupon Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)	112	63	176	B. M.	
6	Feb. 9	Sittings of the House (Exemption from the Standing Order).—Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the Address, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	228	88	317	B. M.	
43	,, 27	——— (Ash Wednesday).—Motion made, and Question put, "That this House do meet To-morrow at Two of the clock."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	225	111	337	B. M.	
51	Mar. 5	——— (Exemption from the Standing Order).—Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee be sitting at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	276	32	309	B. M.	
97	April 5	——— "That the proceedings on the Adjourned Debate on the Motion for the appointment of a Joint Committee on Municipal Trading, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	187	94	282	B. M.	
189	July 9	——— "That the proceedings on the Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	202	124	327	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
29	Feb. 20	South African Republic (Committee of Inquiry into the Raid, 1897).—"That it is expedient that a full inquiry be made into the origin and circumstances of the conspiracy against the Transvaal Government, and of the incursion into the South African Republic by an armed force in 1895."—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)	154	288	443	B. M.	
66	Mar. 14	Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Howell.*) Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the question."	190	126	317	B. M.	
15	Feb. 15	Supply.—(In Committee.)—Further number of Land Forces.—"That the Question be now put."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	238	41	280	B. M.	
16	,, ,,	——— Question put - - - -	241	36	278	—	A. M.
17	,, 16	——— £13,000,000 (Supplementary) for Army Services.—"That the Question be now put."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	191	49	241	B.M.	
18	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly -	215	34	250	B. M.	
22	,, 19	——— (Report) Number of Land Forces.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	166	34	201	B. M.	
23	,, ,,	——— (Report) £13,000,000 (Supplementary) for Army Services.—Amendment proposed, to leave out "13,000,000*l.*" and insert "1,000,000*l.*"—(*Mr. Flavin.*)—Question put, "That 13,000,000*l.* stand part of the Resolution."	237	33	271	—	A. M.
24	,, ,,	——— "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."—After Debate thereon, Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	209	32	242		A. M.
25	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly -	209	33	243	—	A. M.
35	,, 22	——— (In Committee) £162,500 Supplementary for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa.—"That Item A (Uganda,	53	189	243	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Supply.—(In Committee).—*cont.* Grant in Aid) be reduced by 10,000*l.*"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)					
36	Feb. 23	——— £16,626,000 for Civil Services Vote on account.—"That the Item Class I., Vote 3 (Houses of Parliament Buildings), be reduced by 100*l.*"—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)	55	223	279	B. M.	
37	,, ,,	——— "That the Item Class 2, Vote 5 (Foreign Office), be reduced by 200*l.*"—(*Mr. Joseph A. Pease.*)	54	94	149	B. M.	
38	,, ,,	——— "That the Item Class 2, Vote 8 (Board of Trade), be reduced by 100*l.* in respect of the salary of the President of the Board of Trade."—(*Mr. Havelock Wilson.*)—After debate thereon, Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	123	42	166	B. M.	
39	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly.	39	122	162	—	A. M.
40	,, ,,	——— "That the original Question be now put."—Original Question put accordingly.	122	37	160	—	A. M.
47	Mar. 2	——— £5,527,000 for Wages, &c. (Navy.) "That 5,526,000*l.* be granted."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)	30	175	206	B. M.	
48	,, ,,	——— £162,500 for Uganda and Central and East Africa (Supplementary).—"That Item B (British Central Africa, Grant in Aid) be reduced by 100*l.*"—(*Mr. Weir.*)	36	110	147	B. M.	
49	,, ,,	——— £58,905 for Colonial Services (Supplementary).—"That Item M, 1 (Cape of Good Hope, High Commissioner Telegrams), be reduced by 100*l.*"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)	38	91	130	B. M.	
50	,, ,,	——— Report.—£16,626,000 for Civil Services Vote on Account.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	98	24	123	—	A. M.
61	,, 8	——— (In Committee.)—£1,715,300 for Victualling and Clothing.—"That Item B (Wages of Artificers) be reduced by 100*l.*"—(*Mr. Arthur Morton.*)	77	141	219	B. M.	
72	,, 16	——— £1,230,000 for Volunteer Corps.—Pay and Allowances.—"That a sum not exceeding 1,200,000*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)	10	125	136	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
78	Mar. 23	Supply.—"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on Civil Service Estimates)."—Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "in the opinion of this House, the provision for Universities is totally inadequate, and none can be regarded as equitable which does not secure for the Roman Catholics of Ireland, equally with other members of the community, facilities for University Education without violence to their religious feelings."—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell,*) —instead thereof.—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	179	93	273	B. M.	
102	April 26	——— (In the Committee.)—£22,689 for Miscellaneous Legal Expenses.—Motion made, and Question put, "That Item I (Grants in Aid to Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland) be omitted from the Vote."—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)	47	151	199	B. M.	
103	" 27	——— £5,243,605 for Post Office.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 200*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Postmaster-General."—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)	38	74	113	B. M.	
104	" "	——— "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 500*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Postmaster-General."—(*Mr. Steadman.*)	48	68	117	B. M.	
109	May 4	——— £275,000 for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 200*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)	118	217	336	B. M.	
110	" "	——— £563,015 for the Expenses of the Post Office Packet Service.—"That Item A (Contracts for Conveyance of Mails) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Service between Ryle and Stornoway."—(*Mr. Weir.*)	51	142	194	B. M.	
120	" 11	——— £38,691 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 250*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Clerk."—(*Mr. Weir.*)	35	87	123	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Supply.—(In Committee).—*cont.*					
121	May 11	——— £5,197 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Registrar."—(*Mr. Woods.*)	41	98	140	B. M.	
122	,, ,,	——— "That Item B (Salaries and Allowances, Scotland) be reduced by 50*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Assistant-Registrar in Scotland."—(*Mr. Weir.*)	32	95	128	B. M.	
128	,, 18	——— £8,095 for Office of Secretary for Scotland.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State for Scotland."—(*Mr. Weir.*)	53	97	151	B. M.	
129	,, ,,	——— "That Item E (Congested Districts Board, Scotland, Grant in Aid) be reduced by 10*l.*"—(*Mr. Weir.*)—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Dr. Clark.*)	57	104	162	B. M.	
136	,, 24	——— £32,339 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board (Ireland).—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 1,000*l.*"—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	85	131	217	B. M.	
137	,, 25	——— £10,486 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Secretary."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)	79	107	187	B. M.	
138	,, ,,	——— £81,681 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission.—Motion made, and Question put, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 1,000*l.*"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)	77	106	184	B. M.	
143	June 14	——— £5,585,099 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Vice-President of the Council."—(*Mr. Samuel Smith.*)	48	130	179	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

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	1900:						
144	June 15	Supply.—(In Committee).—*cont.* ———— £255,384, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote.—"That Item P (Salaries of the General Consular Service) be reduced by 100*l.*, in respect of the Salary of the Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)	41	96	138	B. M.	
153	" 22	———— £23,036, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.—"That a sum, not exceeding 22.936*l.*, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)	31	94	126	B. M.	
183	July 6	———— £8,095 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices, including a Grant in Aid of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund.—"That Item E (Congested Districts Board) be reduced by 500*l.*"—(*Mr. Hedderwick.*)	69	128	198	B. M.	
184	" "	Original Question again proposed.—"That Item E be reduced by 10*l.*"—(*Mr. Weir.*)	61	122	184	B. M.	
185	" "	———— £10,649, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers and Quays.—"That a sum not exceeding 10,549*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	42	103	146	B. M.	
186	" "	———— £2,743 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar General of Births, &c., in Scotland.—Whereupon Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding 2,693*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Weir.*)	36	104	141	B. M.	
187	" "	———— £8,508 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for Expenses under the Vaccination Act, Infectious Disease Notification Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Public Health (Scotland) Act, Poor Law (Scotland) Act, and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899.—"That a sum not exceeding 8,308*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)	38	105	144	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Supply.—(In Committee).—*cont.*					
217	July 13	——— £96,407 for Home Office, "That 96,307*l.* be granted."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)	63	97	161	B. M.	
218	,, ,,	——— "That 96,357*l.* be granted." —(*Mr. Weir.*)	13	103	117	B. M.	
226	,, 18	——— Report, 4,139,100*l.* for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. Section 2 (Matériel).—"That this House doth agree with the said Resolution."	182	34	217	B. M.	
227	,, ,,	——— £793,200 for Additional Expenditure for Navy Services.—"That this House doth agree with the said Resolution."	184	27	212	B. M.	
228	,, 20	——— £787,503 (including a supplementary sum of £95,434) for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland.—"That a sum not exceeding 787,403*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. O'Malley.*)	72	106	179	—	A. M.
229	,, ,,	——— £54,767 for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland.—"That a sum not exceeding 54,757*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	52	77	130	—	A. M.
241	,, 25	——— £32,250 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain expenses connected with Emigration.—"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by 100*l.* in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—(*Sir Wilfrid Lawson.*)—After Debate thereon, Mr. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	171	102	274	B. M.	
242	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly	54	210	265	B. M.	
243	,, ,,	——— Mr. Balfour claimed "That the original Question be now put."—Original Question put accordingly.	178	43	222	B. M.	
246	,, 27	——— £11,500,000, supplementary sum for Army Services.—"That a reduced sum not exceeding 3,500,000*l.* be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)	14	89	104	—	A. M.

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
262	Aug. 2	Supply.—(In Committee.)—*cont.* ——— £124,483 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board.	210	82	293	B. M.	
263	,, ,,	——— £22,000 for the Houses of Parliament Buildings.	264	36	301	B. M.	
264	,, ,,	——— £35,000 for Expenditure in respect of certain Miscellaneous Legal Buildings.	253	48	302	B. M.	
265	,, ,,	———£4,297 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords.	220	84	305	B. M.	
266	,, ,,	——— £96,407 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices.	223	81	305	B. M.	
267	,, ,,	——— £64,018 for the Salaries and Expenses of certain services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund.	232	72	305	B. M.	
268	,, ,,	——— £25,000 for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.	235	69	305	B. M.	
269	,, ,,	——— £2,811 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Household of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.	215	83	299	B. M.	
270	,, ,,	——— £3,117 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office in Ireland, and of the keeper of the State Papers in Dublin.	233	63	297	B. M.	
271	,, ,,	——— £33,510 for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland.	224	69	294	B. M.	
272	,, ,,	——— £64,710 for the Salaries, Allowances, and Expenses of various County Court Officers, of Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland.	222	65	288	—	A. M.
273	,, ,,	——— £752,408 for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary.	201	74	276	—	A. M.
274	,, ,,	——— £275,000 for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office.	200	54	255	—	A. M.
275	,, 3	——— (Report.) — £4,297 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	130	68	199	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
276	1900 : Aug. 3	Supply.—(In Committee.)—*cont.* ——— £33,040 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	152	12	165	B. M.	
277	" "	——— £25,000 for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	113	34	148	B. M.	
278	" "	——— £33,510 for Criminal Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	148	49	198	B. M.	
2	" "	——— £752,408 for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	148	48	197	B. M.	
280	" "	——— £2,300 for a grant in aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	181	16	198	B. M.	
	" "	——— £275,000 for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office.—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	150	44	195	B. M.	
96	Apr. 4	Tenants in Towns Improvement (Ireland) Bill, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Smith-Barry.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	102	190	293	B. M.	
2	Feb. 22	Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland).—"That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to Tithe Rentcharge in Ireland."—(*Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.*)—And, the Motion being opposed, after a brief explanatory statement from the Member who made the Motion and from a Member who opposed it, Mr. Speaker put the Question in pursuance of Standing Order No. 16.	211	134	346	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight
	1900 :	Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland.)—*cont.*					
165	June 28	——— "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	177	94	272	B. M.	
170	July 3	——— (In Committee.)—Clause 1.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	118	68	187	B. M.	
171	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	128	86	215	B. M.	
172	,, ,,	——— That the Question "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill" be now put."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)	146	66	213	B. M.	
173	,, ,,	——— Question put - - -	145	66	212	—	A. M.
175	,, 4	——— Clause 2.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Clancy.*)—That the Question be now put.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)	178	110	289	B. M.	
176	,, ,,	——— Question put - - -	187	115	303	B. M.	
177	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	123	200	324	B. M.	
178	,, 5	——— Amendment.—(*Mr. Edmund Robertson.*)	144	77	222	B. M.	
179	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Clancy.*)	69	124	194	B. M.	
180	,, ,,	——— "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."	160	84	245	B. M.	
181	,, ,,	——— Clause 3.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Clancy.*)	92	172	265	B. M.	
182	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	82	182	265	B. M.	
190	,, 9	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—(Closure.)—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)	181	108	290	B. M.	
191	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly.	107	179	287	B. M.	
192	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	141	78	220	B. M.	
193	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)	111	197	309	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland.)—*cont.*					
194	July 9	——— "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."—(Closure.)—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)	199	103	303	B. M.	
195	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly.	203	104	308	B. M.	
196	,, ,,	——— "That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill."	177	79	257	—	A. M.
197	,, ,,	——— "That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."	165	74	240	—	A. M.
198	,, ,,	——— New Clause (Price of redemption of tithe rentcharge ordered by the Land Commission.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)—"That the Clause be read a second time."	66	149	216	—	A. M.
199	,, ,,	——— "That the Chairman do report the Bill without Amendment to the House."	134	51	186	—	A. M.
220	,, 16	——— "That the Bill be re-committed in respect of the New Clause (Exclusion of certain annuities and rent charges), and the Amendment to the Schedule."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words from the word "re-committed" to the end of the Question.—(*Mr. MacNeill.*)—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	118	83	202	B. M.	
221	,, ,,	Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland) (Re-committed) Bill.—In Committee.—New Clause (Extension of certain Annuities and Rentcharges) — (*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)—Amendment.—(*Mr. Flynn.*)	124	90	215	B. M.	
222	,, ,,	——— Another Amendment.—(*Mr. Flynn.*)	142	98	241	B. M.	
223	,, ,,	——— "That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Asquith*)—"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	112	76	189	—	A. M.
224	,, ,,	——— Main Question put - -	96	60	157	—	A. M.
282	Aug. 6	——— "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question	87	51	139	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Tithe Rentcharge (Ireland).—*cont.* to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."					
106	April 30	Uganda Railway (Consolidated Fund.)—(In Committee).—"That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of a further sum not exceeding 1,930,000*l.* for the Uganda Railway."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)	187	42	230	B. M.	
111	May 7	Uganda Railway Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Brynmor Jones.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	228	55	284	B. M.	
123	,, 14	———— (In Committee.)—Clause 1.—Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."	149	43	193	B. M.	
231	July 23	Volunteers Bill [*Lords*].—(In Committee).—Clause 1.—Question put, "That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."	129	64	194	B. M.	
232	,, ,,	———— Clause 2.—Amendment.—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)	62	145	208	B. M.	
253	,, 31	———— As amended, *considered.*—Amendment, page 1, line 8.—(*Mr. Scott.*)	60	111	172	B. M.	
65	Mar. 13	War Loan Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	270	23	294	B. M.	
68	,, 15	———— "That the Bill be now read the third time."	174	25	200	B. M.	
115	May 8	War Office Contracts.—"That the Select Committee on War Office Contracts have leave to hear Counsel to such extent as they shall see fit."—(*Mr. Jackson.*)	186	84	271	B. M.	
19	Feb. 16	Ways and Means.—In Committee.—"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of	42	233	276	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Ways and Means.—(In Committee).—*cont.* 13,000,000*l.* be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) — Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—*Mr. John Redmond*)—Question put.					
20	Feb. 16	——— Original Question again proposed.—Debate arising, and, it being after Midnight, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the Business.—Whereupon Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	229	42	272	—	A. M.
21	,, ,,	——— Original Question put accordingly.	226	34	261	—	A. M.
26	,, 19	——— Report "That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of 13,000,000*l.* be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution." — After Debate thereon, Mr. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."—Question put, "That the Question be now put."	191	33	225	—	A. M.
27	,, ,,	——— Question put accordingly, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."	189	32	222	—	A. M
52	Mar. 5	——— (In Committee)— Tea. "That, in lieu of the duty of Customs now payable on tea, there shall be charged, levied, and paid on and after the sixth day of March nineteen hundred and until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and one, the following duty (that is to say) :— £ *s.* *d.* Tea - - the pound - - 6 —(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "six pence" and insert the words "four pence."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)—Question put, "That the words 'six pence' stand part of the Question."	211	62	274	B. M.	
53	,, ,,	——— Main Question put - -	225	50	276	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Ways and Means.—(In Committee).—*cont.*					
54	Mar. 5	Tobacco. ———— "That in addition to the duties of customs now payable on Tobacco imported into Great Britain or Ireland, there shall, on and after the sixth day of March, nineteen hundred, and until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and one, be charged, levied, and paid the following duties (that is to say):— £ s. d. Tobacco, manufactured, viz.:— Cigars - - the pound – – 6 Cavendish or negrohead the pound – – 6 Cavendish or negrohead, manufactured in bond, the pound – – 5 Other manufactured tobacco the pound – – 5 Snuff containing more than thirteen pounds of moisture in every one hundred pounds weight thereof the pound – – 5 Snuff not containing more than thirteen pounds of moisture in every one hundred pounds weight thereof the pound – – 6 Tobacco, unmanufactured, viz.:— Containing ten pounds or more of moisture in every hundred pounds weight thereof the pound – – 4 Containing less than ten pounds of moisture in every one hundred pounds weight thereof - the pound – – 4 —(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*).—Amendment proposed, in lines 9 and 10 (Cavendish or negrohead, manufactured in bond, the pound), to leave out the words "five pence," and insert the words "one penny"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)—Question put, "That the words 'five pence' stand part of the Question."	249	32	282	—	A. M.
55	,, ,,	Spirits—Excise. ———— "That in addition to the duty of excise now payable for every gallon computed at proof of spirits distilled in the United Kingdom there shall, on and after the sixth day of March, nineteen hundred, until the first day of August, nineteen hundred	237	24	262	—	A. M.

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

umber of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:	Ways and Means.—(In Committee.)—*cont.* and one, be charged, levied, and paid the following duty (that is to say):— £ s. d. For every gallon of spirits computed at proof - - - - 6 and so in proportion for any less quantity."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "six pence," and insert the words "four pence."—(*Major Jameson.*)—Question put, "That the words 'six pence' stand part of the Question."					
56	March 5	———— Main Question put - -	233	22	256	—	A. M.
57	,, ,,	Beer.—Excise. ———— Question put, "That in addition to the duty of excise now payable in respect of beer brewed in the United Kingdom there shall on and after the sixth day of March, nineteen hundred, and until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and one, be charged, levied, and paid the following duty (that is to say):— £ s. d. For every thirty-six gallons of worts of specific gravity of one thousand and fifty-five degrees the duty of - - 1 - and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)	217	20	238	--	A. M.
59	,, 6	War Loan. —— —— "(1.) That, towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the years ending the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred, and the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and one, sums, not exceeding thirty-five million pounds, be raised by both or either of the following methods:—(a.) By means of the creation of stock or bonds to be redeemed within a period not exceeding ten years, and bearing interest at a rate to be fixed by the Treasury; or (b.) By means of the issue of Treasury Bills; and that the principal and the interest on any money so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund; (2.) That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any	163	28	192	B. M.	

Divisions on Public Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
		Ways and Means.—(In Committee).—*cont.* additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)					
150	June 20	Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee) — Amendment, page 1, line 7.—(*Mr. Goulding.*)—Amendment to the proposed Amendment.—(*Mr. Strachey.*)	207	122	330	B. M	

DIVISIONS ON PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
124	May 15	Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill [H.L.]—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day Six Months."—(*Mr. Joseph A. Pease.*) Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	210	142	353	B. M.	
126	,, 18	———— "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill [H.L.] to omit clauses 16 and 25."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—*Sir John Brunner.*)	138	171	310	B. M.	
132	,, 22	———— "That the Order for the Committal of the Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill [H.L.] be discharged, and that the Bill be committed to a Select Committee."—(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*)	124	203	328	B. M.	
133	,, ,,	———— "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill [H.L.], to make provision in Clause 9 for the appointment of Governors representative of the School Board for Birmingham."—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)—Debate arising;—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned." — *Lord Hugh Cecil.*—Motion, by leave, withdrawn.—Original Question again proposed. — Amendments made, by leaving out the words	146	203	350	B. M.	

Divisions on Private Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900 :	Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill.—*cont.* "in Clause 9," and by leaving out the word "Governors," and inserting the words "a Governor."—Main Question, as amended, put.					
152	June 22	———— "That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "this House declines to proceed with a Private Bill specially exempting one Foundation from the State control imposed by the General Law upon all Charitable Foundations, including the Universities and Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge."—(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*)—Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."	172	104	277	B.M.	
41	Feb. 26	County of London and Brush Provincial Electric Lighting Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time." Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	107	149	257	B.M.	
105	April 30	Dublin Electric Lighting Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Field.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	105	85	191	B.M.	
162	June 26	———— "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and add the words "three months."—(*Mr. Carew.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	182	169	352	B.M.	
66	July 2	———— "That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months." — (*Mr. Carew.*) — Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	170	176	347	B.M.	

Divisions on Private Business—*continued.*

Number of the Printed Division-Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
169	July 3	Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 11) Bill. —"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months." —(*Captain Norton.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	121	149	271	B. M.	
42	Feb. 27	Gas Light and Coke Company Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	186	108	295	B. M.	
259	Aug. 1	Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [*Lords*] (*by Order*),—*Ordered*, That in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill [*Lords*], Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	119	40	160	B. M.	
260	,, ,,	———— "That the Standing Orders relative to the Committal and Report stages of Private Bills, and Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time."—*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)	114	35	150	B. M.	
64	Mar. 13	Huntingdon Corporation Bill. — "That the Bill be now read a second time." —Amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That," to the end of the Question, in order to add the words "this House is not prepared to consider a proposal for the inclosure of Common lands except when recommended by the Board of Agriculture, in accordance with the procedure and on the principles laid down by the Inclosure Acts."—(*Mr. Kearley.*)—Question put,	145	151	297	B. M.	

Divisions on Private Business—*continued.*

umber of the Printed Division Lists.	DATE.	SUBJECT OF THE DIVISION.	Ayes (Tellers included).	Noes (Tellers included).	Aggregate Number of Members in the House (Speaker or Chairman included).	Before Midnight.	After Midnight.
	1900:						
		Huntingdon Corporation Bill.—*cont.* "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."					
139	May 28	London and North Western Railway (Wales) Bill (*by Order*)—"That the Bill be now read the third time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "now read the third time," and add the words "re-committed to the former Committee in respect of Clause 6."—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*)—Question put, "That the words 'now read the third time' stand part of the Question."	165	108	274	B. M.	
90	Mar. 29	London Water (Purchase) Bill.—"That the Bill be now read a second time."—Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Whitmore.*)—Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."	153	236	390	B. M.	
58	,, 6	Taunton Corporation Bill.—Question put, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Taunton Corporation Bill to provide in Part III. of the Bill that the powers of the Corporation and their officers to inspect cows and dairies outside the borough be not exercised without the previous order of two Justices sitting in Petty Sessions, and having jurisdiction in the district wherein the dairy is situate, and that such order be not made unless the said Justices are satisfied that the local authority of the said district has not already dealt with the case."—(*Mr. Strachey.*)	111	174	286	B. M.	
174	July 4	——— (*By Order*).—As Amended, *considered.*—Amendment.—(*Mr. Strachey.*)	100	101	202	B. M.	

DIVISIONS, SESSION 1900.

Arranged Alphabetically, including Divisions on Public and Private Business.

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Adjournment (for discussing matter of urgency)	67	165	80	981
Do.	127	301	83	627
Do. (Whitsuntide), Closure	140	331	83	1593
Do. (for discussing a matter of urgency)	188	441	85	987
Agricultural Holdings Bill, Second Reading	100	239	81	1617
Do. "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade,"&c.	101	241	81	1621
Do. As amended by the Standing Committee, considered, New Clause (Record of condition of holding)	168	398	85	357
Do. do. do. (Compensation for Disturbance)	200	467	85	1149
Do. do. do. (Crofters' improvements in non-crofting counties)	201	470	85	1161
Do. do. page 1, line 6	202	472	85	1171
Do. do. page 1, line 12	203	474	85	1177
Do. do. do.	204	476	85	1201
Do. do. page 1, line 27	205	478	85	1219
Do. do. page 2, line 10	206	481	85	1253
Do. do. page 2, line 39	207	483	85	1265
Do. do. page 3, line 34	208	485	85	1269
Do. That further proceedings on Consideration, as amended by the Standing Committee, be adjourned till To-morrow, Closure	209	487	85	1279
Do. do. Question put accordingly	210	489	85	1281
Do. As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered, page 4, line 26	212	493	85	1351
Do. do. page 6, line 8	213	495	85	1369
Do. do. page 6, line 19	214	497	85	1379
Do. do. page 3, line 26	215	499	85	1383
Do. Lords Amendments, page 1, line 12	284	635	87	813
Do. do. page 6, line 8	285	637	87	817
Do. do. page 6, line 10	286	639	87	821
Do. do. page 6, line 17	287	641	87	823
Beer Retailers' and Spirit Grocers' Licences (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill, Third Reading, Adjournment	149	351	84	523
Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill [*Lords*], Second Reading	124	291	83	203
Do. do. Instruction to Committee	126	299	83	561
Do. do. Committal to Select Committee	132	311	83	899
Do. do. Instruction to Committee	133	314	83	915
Do. do. Third Reading	152	361	84	763
Business of the House (Financial Business)	11	33	78	1253
Do. (Supply)	13	41	79	125
Do. do. Main Question put	14	44	79	129
Do. (Government Business), Amendment	145	341	84	323
Do. do. Another Amendment	146	344	84	329
Do. do.	219	507	86	113
Census (Great Britain) Bill, Instruction to Committee	69	170	80	997

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
ensus (Great Britain) In Committee, Clause 4, Amendment -	70	172	80	1013
eap Trains Bill, Second Reading - - - - - - -	125	295	83	371
mpanies Bill (Committal to Standing Committee) - -	163	386	84	1185
Do. As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered, page 2, line 31 - - - - -	234	539	86	1081
Do. do. page 5, line 38 - - - - -	235	541	86	1127
Do. do. page 5, line 38, Amendment to proposed Amendment - -	236	543	86	1137
Do. do. page 6, line 4 - - - - -	237	545	86	1143
Do. do. page 6, line 33 - - - - -	238	547	86	1151
Do. do. Adjournment of Debate, Question put - - - - - -	239	549	86	1153
Do. do. page 6, line 37 - - - - -	240	550	86	1157
Do. do. page 9, line 15 - - - - -	247	563	87	87
Do. do. page 9, line 18 - - - - -	248	565	87	91
Do. do. page 10, line 8 - - - - -	249	567	87	105
Do. do. page 11, line 38 - - - - -	250	569	87	113
Do. do. page 17, line 13 - - - - -	251	571	87	137
Do. Lords Amendments considered - - - -	288	643	87	825
Do. do. page 6, line 18 -	289	645	87	829
mmittees (Ascension Day) - - - - - - - -	134	317	83	1029
nsolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, Second Reading - - - -	28	75	79	595
Do. In Committee, Clause 1 - -	30	81	79	703
Do. Third Reading, Closure - -	33	90	79	853
Do. Question put - - - - -	34	92	79	857
nsolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill, Second Reading - - - -	74	181	80	1349
Do. In Committee, Clause 2 - -	75	183	80	1363
rporal Punishment Bill, Second Reading - - - - -	89	213	81	593
unty of London and Brush Provincial Electric Lighting Bill, Second Reading - - - - - - - -	41	107	79	1077
stress in India - - - - - - - - .	95	227	81	1127
blin Electric Lighting Bill, Second Reading - - - -	105	249	82	265
D As amended, considered - -	162	383	84	1095
D Third Reading - - - -	166	393	85	249
ration of Speeches in Parliament - - - - - -	118	279	82	1125
st India Revenue Accounts - - - - - - - - -	244	557	86	1435
clesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill, Second Reading -	93	223	81	1003
Do. Committal to Standing Committee on Law, &c.	94	225	81	1007
Do. Third Reading - -	147	347	84	377
Do. do. Main Question put - -	148	349	84	385
ucation Department (Code 1900) - - - - - -	108	255	82	701
ections - - - - - - - - - - - -	1	3	78	55
ectoral Disabilities (Military Service) Bill, In Committee, Clause 1 - - - - - - - - - - -	71	174	80	1023
ectric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 11) Bill, Second Reading - - - - - - - - - -	169	401	85	377
ementary Education Bill, Third Reading - - - - -	252	573	87	199
icted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, Second Reading - - - -	31	83	79	759
piring Laws Continuance Bill, Second Reading - - -	254	577	87	253
Do. In Committee, Schedule -	261	589	87	361
ctories and Workshops Acts (Use of Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches) - - - - - - - -	114	269	82	995
nance Bill, Second Reading - - - - - - -	73	179	80	1263
Do. In Committee, Clause 1 - - - - - -	79	193	81	371
Do. do. do. - - - - - -	80	195	81	377
Do. do. do. - - - - - -	81	197	81	393
Do. do. Clause 2 - - - - - -	82	199	81	405
Do. do. do. - - - - - -	83	201	81	413
Do. do. Clause 6 - - - - - -	84	203	81	471
Do. do. do. - - - - - -	85	205	81	497

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Finance Bill, in Committee, Clause 7	86	207	81	505
Do. do. do.	87	209	81	509
Do. do. Clause 13	88	211	81	539
Do do. New Clause (Conveyance on sale)	91	218	81	749
Do. Bill to be reported	92	220	81	753
Do. Third Reading	99	237	81	1471
Financial Relations (England and Ireland)	76	185	81	139
Gas Light and Coke Company Bill, Second Reading	42	109	79	1195
Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Companies Amalgamation Bill [*Lords*], Second Reading	259	401	87	311
Do. Third Reading	260	587	87	317
Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill, In Committee, Clause 1	154	365	84	945
Do. do Clause 2	155	368	84	965
Do. do. do.	156	370	84	975
Do. do. Clause 3	157	372	84	979
Do. do. New Clause (Extension of time fixed for repayment of loans raised by local authorities)	158	374	84	989
Do. do. New Clause (Hiring powers)	159	376	84	995
Do. do. New Clause (Leases by local authority for building lodging houses)	160	378	84	1007
Do. do. New Clause (Arbitration as to price of land)	161	380	84	1019
Do. As amended, considered, New Clause (Compensation in respect of compulsory purchase of land)	167	396	85	311
Do. Third Reading, Closure	216	501	85	1421
Do. Lords Amendments considered, page 1, line 24	283	633	87	809
Huntington Corporation Bill, Second Reading	64	157	80	715
Imitation of County Process Bill [*Lords*], Second Reading	233	537	86	977
Intermediate Education (Ireland) Bill, in Committee, Clause 3	245	559	86	1443
Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment Bill, Second Reading	12	37	78	1518
Local Government (Ireland) Bill, Lords Amendments considered, page 2, line 23	290	647	87	957
Local Taxation	107	253	82	485
London and North Western Railway (Wales) Bill	139	329	83	1473
London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) Bill, Second Reading	135	135	83	1079
London Water (Purchase) Bill, Second Reading	90	215	81	667
Lunacy Board (Scotland) [Salaries, &c.]	77	188	81	143
Midwives Bill, Second Reading, Adjournment of Debate	62	153	80	539
Do. do. Original Question put	63	155	80	543
Military Lands Bill [*Lords*], Second Reading	230	531	86	923
Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, Second Reading, Closure	45	117	79	1341
Do. do. Question put accordingly	46	120	79	1343
Ministers of the Crown as Directors of Public Companies	119	281	82	1143

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Money-lending Bill [*Lords*], Committal to Standing Committee on Trade, &c.	164	388	84	1201
Do. Discharge of Order and committal to Standing Committee on Law, &c.	211	491	85	1333
Do. As amended by the Standing Committee, considered, page 1, line 14	255	579	87	269
Do. do. page 1, line 25	256	581	87	273
Do. do. page 2, line 15	257	582	87	281
Do. Adjournment of Debate	258	583	87	283
Municipal Trading, Appointment of Select Committee	98	235	81	1373
Naval Reserve (Mobilisation) Bill, In Committee, Clause 1	113	267	82	979
Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2) Bill, Second Reading, Adjournment	44	114	79	1299
Post Office Sites (re-committed) Bill, Clause 1	225	521	86	389
Privilege	116	273	82	1071
Do.	117	276	82	1083
Queen's Speech (Address in Answer)	2	7	78	393
Do.	3	11	78	824
Do.	4	15	78	891
Do.	5	19	78	1001
Do.	7	25	78	1009
Do.	8	27	78	1149
Do. Closure	9	29	78	1153
Do. Question put accordingly	10	31	78	1157
Railways (Prevention of Accidents) Bill, As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered, page 4, line 31	141	333	83	1633
Do. do. page 5, line 22	142	335	83	1649
Do. Third Reading	151	357	84	665
Sea Fisheries Bill, Second Reading	112	265	82	975
Do. (Nomination of Select Committee)	130	307	83	751
Do. Quorum of the Committee, Question put in pursuance of Standing Order, No. 16	131	309	83	755
Shops Bill, Second Reading, Adjournment of the House	60	149	80	263
Sittings of the House (Exemption from Standing Order)	6	23	78	1061
Do. (Ash Wednesday)	43	111	79	1227
Do. (Exemption from Standing Order)	51	129	80	51
Do. do.	97	233	81	1275
Do. do.	189	444	85	991
South African Republic (Committee of Inquiry into the Raid, 1897)	29	78	79	695
Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire) Bill, Second Reading	66	161	80	887
Supply, In Committee :—				
Army, Supplementary	15	47	79	187
Do. Closure	16	49	79	189
Do. Closure	17	51	79	309
Do. Question put accordingly	18	53	79	313
Uganda, Supplementary	35	94	79	895
Vote on Account	36	97	79	979
Foreign Office	37	99	79	1001
Board of Trade, Closure	38	101	79	1035
Do. Question put accordingly	39	103	79	1037
Do. Original Question put accordingly	40	105	79	1037
Men and Boys for Navy	47	123	79	1565
Uganda, Supplementary	48	125	79	1577
Colonial Services, Supplementary	49	127	79	1587
Victualling and Clothing	61	151	80	431

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances	72	177	80	1143
That the Speaker do now leave the Chair	78	191	81	295
Incorporated Law Societies, England and Ireland	102	243	82	41
Post Office	103	245	82	199
Postmaster General	104	247	82	241
Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office	109	257	82	823
Post Office Packet Service	110	260	82	847
Comptroller Auditor General	120	283	82	1445
Registry of Friendly Societies	121	285	82	1467
Assistant Registrar in Scotland	122	287	82	1471
Secretary for Scotland	128	303	83	643
Secretary for Scotland	129	305	83	667
Local Government Board (Ireland)	136	323	83	1215
Chief Secretary (Ireland)	137	325	83	1373
Irish Land Commission	138	327	83	1405
Board of Education	143	337	84	125
Diplomatic and Consular Services	144	339	84	241
Charity Commission	153	363	84	833
Secretary for Scotland	183	431	85	835
Do. Original Question again proposed	184	433	85	837
Fishery Board (Scotland)	185	435	85	879
Registrar General's Office (Scotland)	186	437	85	881
Local Government Board (Scotland)	187	439	85	891
Home Office	217	50.	85	1537
Do.	218	505	85	1571
Public Education (Ireland)	228	527	86	765
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland	229	529	86	781
Secretary of State for Colonies, Closure	241	551	86	1257
Do. Question put accordingly	242	553	86	1259
Do. Original Question put accordingly	243	555	86	1261
Army, Supplementary	246	561	86	1639
Local Government Board	262	591	87	517
Houses of Parliament Buildings	263	593	87	521
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings	264	595	87	525
House of Lords' Offices	265	597	87	527
Home Office	266	599	87	531
Mercantile Marine Services	267	601	87	535
Secret Service	268	603	87	537
Lord Lieutenant's Household, Ireland	269	605	87	541
Public Record Office in Ireland	270	607	87	545
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions, Ireland	271	609	87	547
County Court Officers, Ireland, &c.	272	611	87	551
Royal Irish Constabulary	273	613	87	553
War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	274	615	87	557
Supply, Report :—				
Number of Land Forces	22	61	79	445
Army Services	23	63	79	485
Do. Closure	24	66	79	489
Do. Question put accordingly	25	68	79	491
Vote on Account	30	128	79	1627
Navy Estimates, 1900-1901, Shipbuilding, Repairs, and Maintenance, &c.	226	523	86 86	403
Do. Additional Expenditure for Navy Services	227	525	86	405
House of Lords' Offices	275	617	87	705
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	276	619	87	713
Secret Service	277	621	87	721
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions (Ireland)	278	623	87	729
Royal Irish Constabulary	279	625	87	731
Queen's Colleges, Ireland	280	627	87	733
War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	281	629	87	735

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Taunton Corporation Bill, Instruction to the Committee	58	145	80	183
Do. As amended, considered, page 18, line 25	174	411	85	511
Tenants in Towns Improvement (Ireland) Bill, Second Reading	96	229	81	1229
Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill, Leave to bring in Bill	32	87	79	835
Do. Second Reading	165	391	84	1427
Do. In Committee, Clause 1	170	403	85	449
Do. do. do.	171	405	85	465
Do. do do. Closure	172	407	85	487
Do. do. do. Question put	173	409	85	489
Do. do. Clause 2, Closure	175	413	85	537
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	176	415	85	541
Do. do. do.	177	417	85	555
Do. do. do	178	421	85	683
Do. do. do.	179	423	85	691
Do. do. do.	180	425	85	705
Do. do. Clause 3	181	427	85	709
Do. do. do.	182	429	85	721
Do. do. do. Closure	190	446	85	1007
Do. do. do. Question put accordingly	191	448	85	1009
Do. do. do.	192	450	85	1021
Do. do. do.	193	452	85	1041
Do. do. That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill, Closure	194	454	85	1045
Do. do. Question put accordingly	195	456	85	1047
Do. do. Clause 5	196	458	85	1055
Do. do. Clause 7	197	460	85	1059
Do. do. New Clause (Price of redemption of tithe rent-charge ordered by the Land Commission)	198	462	85	1067
Do. do. Bill to be reported	199	464	85	1073
Do. Re-committed in respect of New Clause (Exclusion of certain annuities and rent-charges)	220	510	86	131
Do. In Committee, New Clause (Exclusion of certain annuities and rent-charges)	221	512	86	143
Do. do. Another Amendment	222	514	86	147
Do. Third Reading	223	516	86	183
Do. Main Question put	224	518	86	185
Do. Lords Amendments considered	282	631	87	801
ganda Railway [Consolidated Fund], In Committee	106	251	82	333
ganda Railway Bill, Second Reading	111	263	82	927
Do. In Committee, Clause 1	123	289	83	143
olunteers Bill [*Lords*], In Committee, Clause 1	231	533	86	951
Do. do. Clause 2	232	535	86	961
Do. As amended, considered, Amendment, page 1, line 8	253	575	87	241
ar Loan Bill, Second Reading	65	159	80	771
Do. Third Reading	68	168	80	993
ar Office Contracts, Select Committee	115	271	82	1063
Ways and Means, In Committee :—				
rant, Progress	19	55	79	331
Do. Closure	20	57	79	335
Do. Question put accordingly	21	59	79	337

SUBJECT OF DEBATE.	Number of Division List.	Page in Sessional Vol. of Division Lists.	Vol. of "Debates."	Column.
Tea	52	131	80	141
Do. Main Question put	53	133	80	143
Tobacco	54	135	80	149
Spirits Excise	55	138	80	155
Do. Main Question put	56	140	80	157
Beer Excise	57	142	80	161
War Loan	59	147	80	253
Ways and Means, Report :—				
Closure	26	70	79	495
Question put accordingly	27	72	79	497
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee, considered	150	353	84	553

SELECT COMMITTEES.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 July 1900;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of SELECT COMMITTEES appointed in the Session of 1900, including the STANDING COMMITTEES and the COURT OF REFEREES; the Subjects of Inquiry; the Names of the Members appointed to Serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the Number of Days each Committee Met, and the Number of Days each Member Attended; the Total Expense of the Attendance of Witnesses at each Select Committee, and the Name of the Member who Moved for such Select Committee; also, the Total Number of MEMBERS who Served on SELECT COMMITTEES (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.276, of Session I. of 1899)."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Note.—*For Return relating to Select Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, for the consideration of Bills referred to them*, see *under Return* "*Private Bills.*"

ALPHABETICAL LIST of the NAMES of MEMBERS appointed to serve on SELECT COMMITTEES in the Session of 1900.

SESSION 1900.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
A.	
Acland-Hood, Sir A.	17.
Advocate, The Lord. *See* Murray, Mr. Graham.	—
Allan, Mr. W.	16.
Ambrose, Dr.	16.
Anson, Sir W.	11. 16.
Anstruther, Mr.	16.
Arnold, Mr.	16.
Arrol, Sir W.	1.
Asher, Mr.	16.
Asquith, Mr.	16.
Atherley-Jones, Mr.	16.
Atkinson, Mr.	16.
Attorney General, Mr. *See* Finlay, Sir R., and Webster, Sir R.	—
Attorney General for Ireland. *See* Mr. Atkinson.	—
Austin, Mr. M.	13.
B.	
Bailey, Mr. J.	6.
Bainbridge, Mr.	17.
Baird, Mr.	17.
Balcarres, Lord	17.
Baldwin, Mr.	17.
Banbury, Mr.	16. 17.
Barlow, Mr.	16.
Barry, Mr. E.	10.
Bartley, Mr.	16.
Bayley, Mr.	16.
Beach, Mr.	16.
Beach, Sir M. Hicks (*Chancellor of the Exchequer*).	17.
Beckett, Mr.	17.
Bethell, Capt.	17.
Biddulph, Mr. M.	10.
Birrell, Mr.	16.
Blake, Mr. E.	15.
Blundell, Col.	17.
Bonham-Carter, Mr. (*Referee*)	12.
Bond, Mr.	16. 17.
Bonsor, Mr.	5. 16.
Boscawen, Mr. Griffith-	16.
Boulnois, Mr.	16.
Bousfield, Mr.	16.
Bowles, Capt.	3.
Bowles, Mr. T. G.	9.
Brigg, Mr.	16.
Broadhurst, Mr.	6. 16. 17.
Bryce, Mr.	16. 17.
Brymer, Mr.	10.
Buchanan, Mr.	9. 17. 18.
Burns, Mr. John	16. 17.
Burt, Mr.	17.
Butcher, Mr.	16. 17.
Buxton, Mr. Sydney	15.
C	
Caldwell, Mr.	16.
Cameron, Sir C.	16.
Cameron, Mr.	3. 16.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
Carew, Mr.	16.
Carlile, Mr.	17.
Carmichael, Sir Thomas G.	10. 16. 17.
Carson, Sir E. (*Solicitor General*	17.
Carvill, Mr.	16.
Causton, Mr.	16.
Cavendish, Mr. R	6.
Cavendish, Mr. V.	9. 17.
Cayzer, Sir C.	16. 17.
Cecil, Mr. Evelyn	16.
Cecil, Lord Hugh	16.
Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. *See* Beach, Sir M. Hicks	—
Channing, Mr.	16. 17.
Clancy, Mr.	4.
Clark, Dr.	16.
Coddington, Sir William	18.
Coghill, Mr.	16.
Cohen, Mr.	9. 13. 16. 17.
Collings, Mr. Jesse	3. 16. 17.
Colomb, Sir J.	17.
Colston, Mr.	16.
Colville, Mr.	16.
Commins, Dr.	16.
Cooke, Mr. Radcliffe	16.
Corbett, Mr. Cameron	9.
Cotton-Jodrell, Colonel	4. 10.
Cranborne, Viscount	16.
Cripps, Mr.	12. 16.
Crombie, Mr.	1. 16. 17.
Cross. Mr. A.	16. 17.
Curran, Mr. T.	6. 16.
Curran, Mr. T. B.	16.
Currie, Sir Donald	16.
D.	
Dalkeith, Lord	16. 17.
Dalrymple, Sir C.	10. 16. 17.
Daly, Mr.	17.
Dalziel, Mr.	6.
Davenport, Mr. Bromley	16.
Davies, Mr. Vaughan	14. 16. 17.
Davies, Sir Horatio	6.
Denny, Col.	16. 19.
Dewar, Mr.	16.
Dilke, Sir Charles	16. 17.
Dillon, Mr.	16.
Dillwyn-Llewellyn, Sir J.	16.
Donelan, Captain	19.
Dorington, Sir John	15.
Doughty, Mr.	14. 16. 17.
Douglas, Mr. Akers	7.
Douglas, Mr. C.	16.
Drage, Mr.	16.
Duckworth, Mr.	9. 17.
Duncombe, Mr.	3. 6.
Dunn, Sir W.	8.
Dyke, Sir William H.	15.
E.	
Egerton, Mr. de Tatton	14. 16.
Elliot, Mr. A.	16. 19.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
Ellis, Mr. John E.	2. 17. 18.
Emmott, Mr.	1. 13.
Esmonde, Sir T.	9. 18.
Evans, Sir F.	16.
Evans, Mr. S.	16.
F.	
Faber, Mr.	7.
Fardell, Sir T. George	3. 16.
Farquharson, Dr.	5. 15.
Farrell, Mr. J. P.	17.
Farrell, Mr. T. J.	3.
Fellowes, Mr.	17.
Fenwick, Mr.	1.
Ferguson, Mr. Munro	17.
Fergusson, Sir J.	2. 16.
Field, Mr.	16.
Finlay, Sir R.	13. 16. 17.
Firbank, Mr.	19.
Fisher, Mr. Hayes	5.
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose	17.
Fitzmaurice, Lord E.	2. 16.
Fitz Wygram, Sir F.	16.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue	1. 16. 17.
Flower, Mr.	16.
Flynn, Mr.	16.
Foster, Mr. H. S.	14. 16. 17.
Foster, Sir Michael	16.
Foster, Sir Walter	8.
Fowler, Sir H.	17.
Fry, Mr. Lewis	8. 16.
G.	
Galloway, Mr.	1. 17.
Gedge, Mr. Sydney	16. 17.
Gibbs, Mr. Alban	16.
Gibbs, Mr. Vicary	13. 16.
Giles, Mr.	17.
Goddard, Mr.	9. 16.
Godson, Sir F.	16.
Goldsworthy, General	6. 14.
Gordon, Mr.	16.
Gorst, Sir John	16.
Goulding, Mr.	16. 17.
Gourley, Sir Edward	1. 17. 18.
Graham, Mr.	16.
Gray, Mr. Ernest	16. 17.
Greene, Mr. H. D.	12. 13. 16.
Gretton, Mr.	16.
Gull, Sir Cameron	5. 14. 16. 17.
Gurdon, Sir Brampton	14.
H.	
Haldane, Mr.	16.
Halsey, Mr.	15. 18.
Hanbury, Mr.	9.
Hanson, Sir Reginald	17.
Harcourt, Sir W. V.	17.
Hardy, Mr. Laurence	2. 16. 17.
Harrington, Mr.	17.
Harwood, Mr.	16.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
Hayne, Mr. Seale-	4. 14.
Hazell, Mr.	1. 16.
Healy, Mr. Maurice	12. 16.
Healy, Mr. T. M.	16.
Heath, Mr. J.	1. 3.
Hedderwick, Mr.	16. 17.
Helder, Mr.	16.
Hemphill, Mr.	16.
Hickman, Sir Alfred	1. 17.
Hill, Mr. Staveley	16.
Hill, Sir E.	17.
Hoare, Mr. Brodie	9, 17.
Hoare, Sir S.	4. 8. 16.
Hobhouse, Mr. H.	4 8. 16.
Holland, Mr. L.	4. 13. 17.
Houldsworth, Sir W	1. 16. 17.
Houston, Mr.	19.
Howard, Mr.	16.
Howell, Mr.	3. 16. 19.
Hozier, Mr.	16.
Humphreys-Owen, Mr.	11. 16. 17. 18.
Hutton, Mr. A.	16.
J.	
Jackson, Mr.	19.
Jacoby, Mr.	6.
Jameson, Major	17.
Jebb, Mr.	16.
Jeffreys, Mr.	4. 17.
Jenkins, Sir J.	16.
Jessel, Captain	16.
Johnson-Ferguson, Mr.	16. 17.
Johnstone, Mr. Heywood	12. 16. 17.
Joicey, Sir J.	17.
Jones, Mr. Brynmor	12. 16. 17.
Jones, Mr. W.	3. 16.
K.	
Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir U.	4.
Kearley, Mr.	6.
Kemp, Mr.	17.
Kennaway, Sir J.	4.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col.	10. 17.
Kimber, Mr.	16.
King, Sir H. S.	13.
Kinloch, Sir J.	16. 17.
Knowles, Mr. Lees	16.
L.	
Lafone, Mr.	6.
Lambert, Mr.	17.
Laurie, General	16.
Lawrence, Mr. W. F.	16.
Lawson, Mr. Grant	8. 9. 17.
Lea, Sir Thomas	17.
Lees, Sir Elliott	17.
Leese, Sir J.	16.
Leigh, Mr. Chandos- (*Referee*)	12.
Leng, Sir John	8. 16.
Lewis, Mr. Herbert	9. 10. 16. 19.
Lloyd-George, Mr.	16. 17.
Lockwood, Colonel	6. 7. 17. 19.
Loder, Mr.	16.
Long, Colonel	17.
Long, Mr. Walter	17.

NAMES OF MEMBERS	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
Lord Advocate, The. *See* Murray, Mr. Graham.	—
Lorne, Marquess of	4.
Lough, Mr.	16.
Lowther, Mr. J.	18.
Lowther, Mr. J. W.	12.
Loyd, Mr. A. K.	16. 17. 19.
Lyell, Sir L.	8.
Lyttelton, Mr.	16.
M.	
Macaleese, Mr.	17.
Macdona, Mr.	6.
MacDonnell, Dr.	17.
Maclean, Mr.	16. 17.
Maclure, Sir J.	5.
MacNeill, Mr. Swift	16.
M'Arthur, Mr. C.	16. 17.
M'Crae, Mr.	5. 16.
M'Ghee, Mr.	1. 16.
M'Iver, Sir L.	4. 16.
M'Kenna, Mr.	19.
Maddison, Mr.	16. 17.
Malcolm, Mr.	3.
Marks, Mr.	16. 17.
Martin, Mr.	17.
Maxwell, Sir H.	16. 17.
Mellor, Colonel	17. 19.
Mellor, Mr. J. W.	12.
Mendl, Mr.	13.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H.	10. 16.
Middlemore, Mr.	16.
Milbank, Sir Powlett	16.
Milward, Colonel	16. 17.
Molloy, Mr.	4. 17.
Monckton, Mr.	17.
Monk, Mr.	13. 16.
Montagu, Sir S.	16. 17.
Moon, Mr.	16.
Moore, Mr. W.	16.
More, Mr. Jasper	17.
Morgan, Mr. Lloyd	16.
Morley, Mr. C.	10. 17.
Mount, Mr.	16. 18.
Murray, Mr. Graham (*Lord Advocate*).	14. 16. 17.
N.	
Nicol, Mr.	6. 16.
Norton, Captain	16.
O.	
O'Brien, Mr. Patrick	17. 19.
O'Connor, Mr. A.	2. 9. 16. 17.
O'Connor, Mr. T. P.	10. 16.
Oldroyd, Mr.	17.
Orr-Ewing, Mr.	16.
P.	
Palmer, Mr.	3. 13. 16.
Parkes, Mr.	17.
Paulton, Mr.	12. 19.
Pease, Sir Joseph	17.
Penn, Mr.	1.
Percy, Earl	17.
Perks, Mr.	16.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	Committees on which each Member was appointed.
Pickersgill, Mr.	5. 16.
Pierpoint, Mr.	6.
Pilkington, Colonel	1. 16. 17.
Pilkington, Sir G.	16.
Platt-Higgins, Mr.	16.
Pollock, Mr.	16.
Powell, Sir F.	16.
Power, Mr.	6. 17.
Pretyman, Captain	14. 17.
Price, Mr.	17.
Provand, Mr.	16. 17.
Pryce-Jones, Colonel	16.
Purvis, Mr.	16. 17.
Pym, Mr.	3. 9. 16.
R.	
Randell, Mr.	16.
Rankin, Sir James	13. 17.
Rasch, Major	16. 19.
Reckitt, Mr.	3. 16.
Redmond, Mr. W.	6. 14. 18.
Reid, Sir R.	16. 19.
Renshaw, Mr.	1. 16. 17.
Rentoul, Mr.	16.
Richards, Mr.	16.
Richardson, Mr. J.	3. 4.
Richardson, Sir T.	17.
Rickett, Mr. Compton	17.
Ridley, Sir M. W.	16.
Ritchie, Mr.	14. 17.
Roberts, Mr. Bryn	16.
Roberts, Mr. H.	16.
Robertson, Mr. E.	16. 17.
Rollit, Sir A.	16. 17.
Rothschild, Mr.	14.
Round, Mr.	5. 17.
Runciman, Mr.	17.
Russell, General	17.
Russell, Mr. T. W.	5. 16. 17.
S.	
Samuel, Mr. J.	16.
Schwann, Mr.	16.
Scoble, Sir A.	16.
Seton-Karr, Mr.	17.
Shaw, Mr. C.	16.
Shaw, Mr. T.	16. 17.
Shaw-Stewart, Mr.	16.
Sidebotham, Mr. J. W.	16.
Sidebottom, Mr. T. H.	17.
Simeon, Sir B.	17.
Sinclair, Captain	14. 16. 17.
Skewes-Cox, Mr.	16.
Smith, Mr. A.	17.
Smith, Mr. Parker	12. 16.
Smith, Mr S.	17.
Smith, Mr. W. F. D.	10. 11. 16.
Solicitor-General, Mr. *See* Finlay, Sir R., & Carson, Sir E.	—
Spencer, Mr. E.	16.
Spicer, Mr.	15.
Stanhope, Mr.	15.
Steadman, Mr.	16.
Stevenson, Mr.	11. 16.
Stewart, Sir Mark	15. 18.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J.	13.
Strachey, Mr.	17.
Strutt, Mr.	17.
Stuart, Mr. J.	16. 17.
T.	
Talbot, Mr.	16.
Tennant, Mr.	16. 17.
Thomas, Mr. A.	16.
Thorburn, Sir W.	16.
Thornton, Mr.	9. 16.
Tollemache, Mr.	10.
Tomlinson, Mr.	5. 16. 17.
Trevelyan, Mr.	7.
Tritton, Mr.	16.
Tuke, Sir J.	16.
Tully, Mr.	17.
U.	
Ure, Mr.	7. 16.
V.	
Vincent, Sir Howard	16.
W.	
Wallace, Mr. Robert (*Perth*)	16.
Walton, Mr. Lawson	5. 16. 17.
Warner, Mr Courtenay	17.
Warr, Mr.	5. 16. 17.
Webster, Sir Richard (*Attorney-General*).	16. 17.
Wedderburn, Sir W.	17.
Welby, Colonel	16.
Welby, Sir C.	17.
Wharton, Mr. J.	15.
Whiteley, Mr. G.	17.
Whitmore, Mr.	16. 18
Williams, Colonel	17.
Williams, Mr. Carvell	16.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	17.
Wilson, Mr. F.	17.
Wilson, Mr. Havelock	16.
Wilson, Mr. H. J.	10.
Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)	17.
Wilson, Mr. John (*Falkirk*)	17.
Wilson, Mr. John (*Govan*)	8.
Wilson, Mr. J. W.	17.
Wodehouse, Mr.	15. 18.
Wolff, Mr.	17.
Woodall, Mr.	4.
Woodhouse, Sir James	5. 16. 17.
Woods, Mr. Samuel	16. 17.
Wortley, Mr. Stuart-	2. 11. 16. 17.
Wylie, Mr.	16.
Wyndham-Quin, Major	3.
Y.	
Yerburgh, Mr.	16.
Young, Mr. Samuel	17.
Yoxall, Mr.	16.

Session 1900.

Subject of Inquiry, and ames of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
1.				£ s. d.	
lers Registration nd Inspection.	- - - -	–	16	81 14 4	
minated, 2nd April.	Arrol, Sir William - -	11			
Ioved for by Mr. Anstruther.	Crombie, Mr. - - -	16			
	Emmott, Mr. - - -	13			
	Fenwick, Mr. - - -	13			
	Flannery, Sir Fortescue -	12			
	Galloway, Mr. - - -	15			
	Gourley, Sir Edward - -	11			
	Hazell, Mr. - - - -	5			
	Heath, Mr. - - - -	10			
	Hickman, Sir Alfred - -	8			
	Houldsworth, Sir William -	14			
	M'Ghee, Mr. - - -	13			
	Penn, Mr. - - - -	16			
	Pilkington, Colonel - -	10			
	Renshaw, Mr. - - -	13			
2.					
irmen's Panel -	- - - -	–	11	Nil.	
ominated by Committee of Selection.	Ellis, Mr. John - - -	6	-	- -	Acted once as Chairman.
	Fergusson, Sir James -	7			
	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	8			
	Hardy, Mr. Laurence - -	8			
	O'Connor, Mr. Arthur, Chairman.	11			
	Wortley, Mr. Stuart - -	3			
3.					
Brigades - -	- - - - - -	–	12	Nil.	
ominated, 28th February.	Collings, Mr. Jesse, Chairman.	12			
oved for by Sir William Walrond.	Bowles, Capt. - - -	8			
	Cameron, Mr. - - -	2			
	Duncombe, Mr. - - -	0			
	Fardell, Sir George - -	11			
	Farrell, Mr. Thomas Joseph	2			
	Heath, Mr. - - - -	2			
	Howell, Mr. - - -	6			
	Jones, Mr. William - -	3			
	Malcolm, Mr. - - -	10			
	Palmer, Mr. - - -	9			
	Pym, Mr. - - - -	12			
	Reckitt, Mr. Harold - -	10			
	Richardson, Mr. - - -	7			
	Wyndham-Quin, Major -	0			

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4.				£ s. d.	
General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills. A Sessional Committee.	- - - - - -	–	1	Nil.	
	Kennaway, Sir John, Chairman.	0			
	Clancy, Mr. - - -	0			
	Cotton-Jodrell, Colonel -	0	–	- -	Added 4 May.
	Egerton, Mr. Tatton - -	0			
	Hayne, Mr. Seale- - -	1			
	Hoare, Mr. Samuel - -	1			
	Hobhouse, Mr. - - -	1			
	Holland, Mr. - - -	1			
	Jeffreys, Mr. - - -	1			
	Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir U. -	1			
	Lorne, Marquess of - -	0	–	- -	Called up to the House of Lords.
	M'Iver, Sir Lewis - -	1			
	Molloy, Mr. - - -	1			
	Richardson, Mr. Joseph -	0	–	- -	Added 4 May.
	Woodall, Mr. - - -	0	–	- -	Discharged 4 May.
5.					
Hospitals (Exemption from Rates). Nominated, 22nd May. Moved for by Sir William Walrond.	- - - - - -	–	7	6 9 8	
	Russell, Mr. T. W., Chairman.	7			
	Bonsor, Mr. - - - -	7			
	Farquharson, Dr. - -	7			
	Fisher, Mr. Hayes - -	7			
	Gull, Sir Cameron - -	6			
	Maclure, Sir John - -	5			
	M'Crae, Mr. - - -	4			
	Pickersgill, Mr. - - -	4			
	Round, Mr. - - - -	7			
	Tomlinson, Mr. - - -	7			
	Walton, Mr. Lawson - -	4			
	Warr, Mr. - - - -	7			
	Woodhouse, Sir James -	5			
6.					
Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms (House of Commons). Nominated, 20th February.	- - - - - -	–	16	Nil.	
	Goldsworthy, General, Chairman.	14			
	Bailey, Mr. James - -	12			
	Broadhurst, Mr. - - -	5			
	Cavendish, Mr. Richard -	0			
	Curran, Mr. Thomas - -	12			
	Dalziel, Mr.- - - -	4			
	Davies, Sir Horatio - -	1			
	Duncombe, Mr. - - -	0			
	Jacoby, Mr.- - - -	14			
	Kearley, Mr. - - -	0			
	Lafone, Mr. - - - -	13			
	Lockwood, Colonel - -	8		- - -	Acted twice as Chairman.
	Macdona, Mr. - - -	11			
	Nicol, Mr. - - - -	3			
	Pierpoint, Mr. - - -	10			
	Power, Mr. P. J.- - -	10			
	Redmond, Mr. William -	8			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS:
7.				£ s. d.	
nd Registry (New Buildings) Bill	- - - - - -	–	2	Nil.	
Nominated, 11th May.	Douglas, Mr. Akers-	2			
	Lockwood, Colonel	2			
	Ure, Mr.	0			
Moved for by Mr. Akers-Douglas.	Added by the Committee of Selection—				
	Faber, Mr.	2			
	Trevelyan, Mr.	2			
8.					
nicipal Trading (Joint Committee)	- - - - - -	–	16	Nil.	
	Dunn, Sir William	8	–	- -	Added 29 June.
Moved for by Mr. Anstruther.	Foster, Sir Walter	10			
	Fry, Mr. Lewis	14	–	- -	Added 4 May.
	Hoare, Sir Samuel	0	–	- -	Discharged 4 May.
	Hobhouse, Mr.	10			
	Lawson, Mr. Grant	15			
	Leng, Sir John	0	–	- -	Added 19 June; discharged 26 June
	Lyell, Sir Leonard	3	–	- -	Discharged 19 June.
	Wilson, Mr. John (*Govan*)	0	–	- -	Added 26 June; discharged 29 June.
9.					
lic Accounts - -	- - - - - -	–	13	Nil.	
ominated, 22nd February.	Bowles, Mr. Gibson	10			
	Buchanan, Mr.	11			
	Cavendish, Mr. Victor-	9			
oved for by Sir William Walrond.	Cohen, Mr.	12			
	Corbett, Mr. Cameron-	9			
	Duckworth, Mr.	6			
	Esmonde, Sir Thomas-	2			
	Goddard, Mr.	12			
	Hanbury, Mr.	10			
	Hoare, Mr. Brodie	12			
	Lawson, Mr. Grant	7			
	Lewis, Mr. Herbert	4			
	O'Connor, Mr. Arthur-	13			
	Pym, Mr.	7			
	Thornton, Mr.	13			
10.					
lic Petitions - -	- - - - - -	–	9	Nil.	
ominated, 20th February.	Dalrymple, Sir Charles, Chairman.	7			
	Barry, Mr. E.	0			
oved for by Sir William Walrond.	Biddulph, Mr.	6	–	- -	Acted twice as Chairman.
	Brymer, Mr.	2			
	Carmichael, Sir Thomas	1			
	Cotton-Jodrell, Colonel	4			
	Kenyon-Slaney, Colonel	3			

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10.				£ s. d.	
Public Petitions.—*cont.*	Lewis, Mr. Herbert - -	3			
	Meysey-Thompson, Sir Henry	2			
	Morley, Mr. Charles - - -	4			
	O'Connor, Mr. T. P. - -	0			
	Smith, Mr. W. F. D. - -	4			
	Tollemache, Mr. - - -	7			
	Wilson, Mr. Henry J. -	3			
11.					
Queen Anne's Bounty Board (Joint Committee).	- - - - - -	–	2	- Nil.	The Committee made a Specia Report t the Hous (16th July stating that in the opinion of th Committee owing to th late perio of the Ses sion, the considered i inadvisabl to furthe proceed wit the inquir this Session
	Mr. Stuart-Wortley - -	2			
	Mr. W. F. D. Smith - -	2			
Moved for by Sir William Walrond.	Mr. Stevenson - -	2			
	Sir W. Anson - - -	1			
	Mr. Humphreys-Owen -	1			
12.					
Referees, Court of -	- - - - - -	–	13	- Nil.	Acted as Chairman twice.
	Cripps, Mr - - - -	0			
	Greene, Mr. H. D. - -	9	–	- -	
	Healy, Mr. Maurice - -	3			
	Johnstone, Mr. Heywood -	10			
	Jones, Mr. Brynmor - -	8			
	Lowther, Mr. J. W. - -	0			
	Mellor, Mr. J. W. - -	1	–	- -	Acted as Chairman.
	Paulton, Mr. - - -	4			
	Smith, Mr. Parker - -	10	–	- -	Acted as Chairman te times.
	Carter, Mr. Bonham- - -	4			
	Leigh, Mr. Chandos - -	12			
13.					
Registration of Firms Bill	- - - - - -	–	6	- Nil.	
Nominated, 22nd May.	Austin, Mr. Michael - -	5			
	Emmott, Mr. - - -	6			
	Finlay, Sir Robert (Mr. Attorney General).	5			
Moved for by Sir William Walrond.	Gibbs, Mr. Vicary - -	4			
	Greene, Mr. H. D. - -	6	–	- -	Acted as Chairman once.
	Mendl, Mr. - - - -	2			
	Holland, Mr. - - -	2			
	King, Sir Seymour - -	6			
	Monk, Mr. - - -	6			

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				£ s. d.	
13.					
gistration of Firms Bill.—*continued.*	Palmer, Mr - - - -	4			
	Rankin, Sir James - -	3			
	Cohen, Mr. - - - -	3			
	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John-	6			
14.					
Fisheries Bill -	- - - - - -	–	11	93 16 4	
Nominated, 21st Ma	Ritchie, Mr., Chairman -	6			
	Davies, Mr. Vaughan - -	10			
Moved for by Si William Walrond	Doughty, Mr. George - -	6			
	Foster, Mr. Harry - -	9			
	Goldsworthy, General- -	11			
	Gull, Sir Cameron - -	9			
	Gurdon, Sir Brampton -	10			
	Hayne, Mr. Seale- - -	10			
	Murray, Mr. Graham (The Lord Advocate). - -	7	–	- -	Acted as Chairman five times.
	Pretyman, Mr. - - -	8			
	Redmond, Mr. William -	5			
	Rothschild, Mr. - - -	10			
	Sinclair, Captain- - -	11			
15.					
ection, Committee f	- - - - - -	–	24	- Nil.	
Nominated, 6th February.	Blake, Mr. - - - -	17			
	Buxton, Mr. Sydney - -	18			
	Dorington, Sir John - -	17			
Moved for by Mr. Halsey.	Dyke, Sir William Hart -	11			
	Farquharson, Dr. - -	21			
	Halsey, Mr.- - - -	23			
	Spicer, Mr. Albert - -	9			
	Stanhope, Mr. Philip - -	11			
	Stewart, Sir Mark M'Taggart	15			
	Wharton, Mr. - - -	9			
	Wodehouse, Mr. - - -	24	–	- -	Acted as Chairman once.
16.					
nding Committee n Law, &c.	- - - - - -	–	16		
ppointed and Nominated, 23rd Feb.	Sir James Fergusson (Chairman).	5			
Bills.	Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Chairman).	3			
lidwives Bill, 2 days.	Mr. Laurence Hardy (Chairman).	5			
lerchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners) Bill, 1 day.	Mr. Arthur O'Connor (Chairman).	2			
cclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill, 1 day.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Chairman).	1			
	Advocate, The Lord - -	3	–	- -	Discharged 18 July.
	Asquith, Mr. - - -	3			
own Councils (Scotland) Bill, 2 days.	Atherley-Jones, Mr. - -	1			
	Atkinson, Mr. - - -	2			
and Charges Bill (Lords), 1 day.	Barlow, Mr.- - - -	0			
	Bartley, Mr. - - -	0			

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16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.* Burial Grounds Bill, 1 day. Borough Funds Bill, 1 day. County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London) Bill, ½ day. Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, Amendment Bill, 1 day. Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill, 10 minutes. Executors (Scotland) Bill, ⅓ day. Elementary Education Bill, 2½ days. Money Lending Bill (Lords), 1½ day.	Beach, Mr. - - - -	7			
	Boscawen, Mr. Griffith -	1	—	- -	Added 18 May discharge 22 May.
	Butcher, Mr. - - -	3			
	Carew, Mr. - - - -	4			
	Cecil, Lord Hugh - -	1	—	- -	Added 18 May discharge 22 May.
	Coghill, Mr. - - -	1			
	Commins, Dr. - - -	5			
	Cooke, Mr. Radcliffe - -	5			
	Cranborne, Viscount - -	0	-	- -	Discharged May; adde 22 May; di charged July; adde
	Cripps, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Curran, Mr. T. B. - -	2			
	Davenport, Mr. Bromley - -	0	—	- -	Discharged May; adde 22 May
	Dilke, Sir Charles - -	5	—	- -	Discharged Mar.; adde 18 May.
	Dillon, Mr. - - - -	4			
	Egerton, Mr. Tatton - -	2			
	Elliot, Mr. Arthur - -	6			
	Evans, Mr. Samuel - -	1			
	Fardell, Sir George - -	4			
	Flower, Mr. - - -	2	—	- -	Added 18 Jul discharged.
	Flynn, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Foster, Mr. H. S. - -	2	—	- -	Added 18 Jul discharged.
	Fry, Mr. Lewis	3			
	Gedge, Mr. Sydney - -	8			
	Godson, Sir Frederick - -	9			
	Goulding, Mr. - - -	4			
	Graham, Mr. - - -	5			
	Greene, Mr. H. D. - -	7			
	Haldane, Mr. - - -	2			
	Harwood, Mr. - - -	4			
	Healy, Mr. T. M. - -	2			
	Helder, Mr. - - - -	14			
	Hemphill, Mr. - - -	8			
	Hill, Mr. Staveley - -	5			
	Hobhouse, Mr. - - -	3			
	Jenkins, Sir John - -	5			
	Johnson-Ferguson, Mr. - -	6			
	Knowles, Mr. Lees - -	1			
	Lawrence, Mr. W. F. - -	10			
	Leese, Sir Joseph - -	0			
	Lloyd-George, Mr. - -	1	—	- -	Added 13 Mar discharge 18 May.
	Loder, Mr. - - - -	8	—	- -	Discharged July; adde
	Loyd, Mr. A. K. - - -	7			
	MacNeill, Mr. - - -	7			
	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H'y	0			
	Milward, Colonel - -	5			Discharged July; adde
	Monk, Mr. - -	15			
	Morgan, Mr. Lloyd	13			
	Mount, Mr. - -	7			
	Norton, Captain -	5			
	Pickersgill, Mr. - - -	1			
	Powell, Sir Francis -	14			
	Pryce-Jones, Colonel - -	6			
	Reid, Sir Robert -	1			
	Rentoul, Mr. - -	4			
	Ridley, Secretary Sir Matthew White -	1			
	Roberts, Mr. Bryn -	4			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.*	Russell, Mr. T. W.	2			
	Scoble, Sir Andrew - -	5			
	Smith, Mr. Parker - -	8			
	Solicitor-General, Mr. - -	4			
	Spencer, Mr. Ernest - -	4			
	Stevenson, Mr. - - -	2			
	Ure, Mr. - - - -	5			
	Vincent, Sir Howard - -	0			
	Wallace, Mr. Robert (*Perth*)	3			
	Warr, Mr. - - - -	10			
	Woodhouse, Sir James -	1			
	Woods, Mr. - - - -	4	–	–	Add 18 July; discharged.
	Yerburgh, Mr. - - -	2			
	Added in respect of the Midwives Bill - (15)				
	Ambrose, Dr. - - -	0			
	Bonsor, Mr. - - - -	2			
	Flower, Mr. - - -	2			
	Gibbs, Mr. Vicary - -	2			
	Hazell, Mr. - - -	2			
	Howard, Mr. - - -	2			
	Humphreys-Owen, Mr. -	0			
	Johnstone, Mr. Heywood -	2			
	Milbank, Sir Powlett -	0			
	O'Connor, Mr. T. P. - -	1			
	Pilkington, Sir George -	1			
	Schwann, Mr. - - -	0			
	Tennant, Mr. - - -	2			
	Thornton, Mr. - - -	1			
	Tritton, Mr. - -	2			
	Added in respect of the Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners) Bill - - - (15)				
	Allan, Mr. William (*Gateshead*)	0			
	Bryce, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Cayzer, Sir Charles - -	0			
	Currie, Sir Donald - -	0			
	Denny, Colonel - - -	1			
	Evans, Sir Francis - -	0			
	Field, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Flannery, Sir Fortescue -	1			
	Houldsworth, Sir William -	1			
	Leng, Sir John - - -	0			
	M'Arthur, Mr. Charles -	1			
	Platt-Higgins, Mr. - -	1			
	Provand, Mr. - - -	1			
	Rollit, Sir Albert - -	0			
	Wilson, Mr. Havelock -	1			
	Added in respect of the Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill (15)				
	Anstruther, Mr. - - -	1			
	Birrell, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Cameron, Sir Charles - -	1			

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16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.*	Colville, Mr.	1			
	Crombie, Mr.	1			
	Dalkeith, Earl of	0			
	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	1			
	Gordon, Mr.	0			
	Nicol, Mr.	1			
	Renshaw, Mr.	1			
	Shaw, Mr. Thomas	0			
	Shaw-Stewart, Mr.	0			
	Sinclair, Captain	1			
	Williams, Mr. Carvell	1			
	Wylie, Mr.	1			
	Added in respect of the Town Councils (Scotland) Bill (15)				
	Asher, Mr.	2			
	Cameron, Sir Charles	2			
	Clark, Dr.	0			
	Crombie, Mr.	0			
	Cross, Mr. Alexander	0			
	Denny, Colonel	2			
	Dewar, Mr.	1			
	Douglas, Mr.	2			
	Gordon, Mr.	2			
	M'Iver, Sir Lewis	2			
	Maxwell, Sir Herbert	1			
	Orr-Ewing, Mr.	0			
	Shaw, Mr. Thomas	2			
	Thorburn, Sir Walter	2			
	Wylie, Mr.	0			
	Robertson, Mr. Edmund	2			
	Added in respect of the Land Charges Bill [H.L.]				
	Bond, Mr.	1			
	Bousfield, Mr.	0			
	Caldwell, Mr.	1			
	Channing, Mr.	1			
	Drage, Mr.	1			
	Healy, Mr. Maurice	0			
	Hedderwick, Mr.	1			
	Kimber, Mr.	1			
	Lewis, Mr. Herbert	0			
	Moon, Mr.	0			
	Perks, Mr.	0			
	Pollock, Mr.	0			
	Purvis, Mr.	1			
	Randell, Mr.	0			
	Skewes-Cox, Mr.	1			
	Added in respect of the Burial Grounds Bill (15)				
	Broadhurst, Mr.	1			
	Cameron, Mr. Robert	0			
	Collings, Mr. Jesse	1			
	Goddard, Mr.	1			
	Gretton, Mr.	0			
	Jebb, Mr.	1			
	Jones, Mr. William	0			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.*	Perks, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Pym, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Roberts, Mr. Herbert - -	1			
	Richards, Mr. - - -	1			
	Russell, Mr. T. W. - - -	0			
	Sidebotham, Mr. J. W. -	1			
	Talbot, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Williams, Mr. Carvell -	1			
	Added in respect of the Borough Funds Bill (15)				
	Allan, Mr. William (*Gateshead*).	1			
	Banbury, Mr. - - -	1			
	Carvill, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Doughty, Mr. - - -	1			
	Hoare, Sir Samuel - -	0			
	Jones, Mr. Brynmor - -	0			
	Moore, Mr. William - -	1			
	Palmer, Mr. - - -	1			
	Pilkington, Colonel - -	0			
	Rollit, Sir Albert - -	1			
	Russell, Mr. T. W. - -	1			
	Samuel, Mr. J. - - -	1			
	Shaw, Mr. Charles - -	0			
	Tomlinson, Mr. - - -	0			
	Added in respect of the County and Borough Franchise Assimilation (London) Bill - (15)				
	Attorney-General, Mr. -	1			
	Bond, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Boulnois, Mr. - - -	0			
	Burns, Mr. John - - -	1			
	Causton, Mr. - - -	0			
	Cohen, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Gibbs, Mr. Alban - -	0			
	Jessel, Captain - - -	1			
	Lough, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Montagu, Sir Samuel - -	0			
	Reckitt, Mr. - - -	0			
	Smith, Mr. W. F. D - -	1			
	Steadman, Mr. - - -	0			
	Stuart, Mr. James - -	0			
	Whitmore, Mr. - - -	1			
	Added in respect of the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) *Amendment Bill* - - (15)				
	Arnold, Mr. - - - -				
	Bond, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Brigg, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Collings, Mr. Jesse - -	1			
	Dewar, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Dillwyn-Llewellyn, Sir John	1			
	Howell, Mr. - - - -	0			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.*	Hozier, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Humphreys Owen, Mr. -	0			
	Jones, Mr. William - -	1			
	Laurie, General - - -	0			
	Lloyd-George, Mr. - -	0			
	Maclean, Mr. - - -	1			
	Roberts, Mr. Herbert - -	1			
	Thomas, Mr. Alfred - -	1			
	Added in respect of the Executors (Scotland) Bill - - - (15)				
	Asher, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Caldwell, Mr. - - -	1			
	Cameron, Sir Charles - -	1			
	Cross, Mr. Alexander - -	0			
	Denny, Colonel - - -	0			
	Dewar, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Douglas, Mr. - - -	0			
	Gordon, Mr. - - -	0			
	M'Iver, Sir Lewis - -	1			
	Maxwell, Sir Herbert - -	0			
	Renshaw, Mr. - - -	1			
	Robertson, Mr. Edmund -	0			
	Shaw, Mr. Thomas - -	1			
	Thorburn, Sir Walter - -	1			
	Wylie, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Added in respect of the Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill - (15)				
	Banbury, Mr. - - -	0			
	Carmichael, Sir Thomas Gibson.	1			
	Colston, Mr. - - -	1			
	Dalkeith, Earl of - -	0			
	Davies, Mr. Vaughan -	0			
	Douglas, Mr. Charles	0			
	Fitz Wygram, Sir Frederick	1			
	Foster, Sir Michael -	1			
	Kinloch, Sir John	[illegible]			
	M'Crae, Mr. - -	0			
	Pilkington, Sir George	0			
	Shaw-Stewart, Mr.	0			
	Tennant, Mr. - -	0			
	Tuke, Sir John -	0			
	Welby, Colonel - -	1			
	Added in respect of the Elementary Education Bill - - - (15)				
	Attorney-General, Mr. -	2			
	Broadhurst, Mr. - - -	2			
	Cecil, Mr. Evelyn - -	3			
	Channing, Mr. - - -	2			
	Drage, Mr. - - - -	3			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
16.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Law, &c.—*cont.*	Flower, Mr. - - -	3			
	Goddard, Mr. - - -	1			
	Gorst, Sir John - - -	3			
	Gray, Mr. - - - -	2			
	Hutton, Mr. Alfred - -	3			
	Lewis, Mr. Herbert - -	3			
	Middlemore, Mr. - -	2			
	Stuart, Mr. James - -	0			
	Talbot, Mr. - - -	3			
	Yoxall, Mr. - - -	2			
	Added in respect of the Money Lending Bill (Lords) - - (15)				
	Anson, Sir William - -	2			
	Attorney-General, Mr. -	2			
	Bayley, Mr. Thomas - -	2			
	Birrell, Mr. - - -	0			
	Gibbs, Mr. Vicary - -	0			
	Gull, Sir Cameron - -	2			
	Hazell, Mr. - - -	2			
	Lyttelton, Mr. - - -	2			
	M'Ghee, Mr. - - -	2			
	Maddison, Mr. - - -	2			
	Marks, Mr. - - -	2			
	Purvis, Mr. - - -	2			
	Rasch, Major - - -	2			
	Steadman, Mr. - - -	0			
	Walton, Mr. Lawson - -	0			
17.					
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.	- - - - - -		15		
Nominated 23rd Feb.	Mr. John E. Ellis (Chairman).	4			
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill, 1 day.	Mr. Laurence Hardy (Chairman).	4			
Railway (Prevention of Accidents) Bill, 3 days.	Mr. Arthur O'Connor (Chairman).	6			
Agricultural Holdings Bill, 5 days.	Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Chairman).	1		-	Served one day as Chairman on the Agricultural Holdings Bill.
Companies Bill, 6 days.	Attorney-General, Mr. (Sir Richard Webster).	1			
	Attorney-General, Mr. (Sir Robert Finlay).	14			
	Baird, Mr. - - - -	8			Discharged 27 Mar.; added 3 April.
	Balcarres, Lord - - -			- -	Discharged 20 March.
	Baldwin, Mr. - - -	12			
	Beckett, Mr. - - -	1			
	Bethell, Captain - - -	5		-	Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Broadhurst, Mr. - - -	11			
	Burns, Mr. John - - -	8			
	Burt, Mr. - - - -	8			
	Cayzer, Sir Charles - -	0			

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17.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*cont.*	Cavendish, Mr. Victor	5			Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr.	7			Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Channing, Mr.	11			
	Cohen, Mr.	9			Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Collings, Mr. Jesse	7			
	Colomb, Sir John	11			Discharged 27 Mar.; added 3 April.
	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	3			Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Daly, Mr.	3			
	Dilke, Sir Charles	4			Added 13 Mar.; discharged 18 May.
	Doughty, Mr.	3			
	Duckworth, Mr.	7			
	Farrell, Mr. J. P.	0			
	FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose	4			
	Fowler, Sir Henry	5			
	Galloway, Mr.	13			
	Giles, Mr.	1			Added 30 Mar.; discharged 3 April.
	Gourley, Sir Edward	3			
	Hanson, Sir Reginald	0			Discharged 30 Mar.; added 29 June.
	Harrington, Mr.	1			
	Hedderwick, Mr.	4			Added 18 May; discharged 29 June.
	Hickman, Sir Alfred	8			
	Hill, Sir Edward	0			Discharged 18 May; added 29 June.
	Hoare, Mr. Brodie	6			Added 29 June; discharged 26 July.
	Houldsworth, Sir William	5			Discharged 27 Mar.; added 3 Apr.
	Jameson, Major	1			
	Jeffreys, Mr.	10			
	Joicey, Sir James	2			
	Kemp, Mr.	0			Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Kenyon-Slaney, Col.	1			Added 30 Mar.; discharged 3 April.
	Lawson, Mr. Grant	5			Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Lea, Sir Thomas	12			
	Lees, Sir Elliott	0			Discharged 30 Mar.; added 29 June.
	Lloyd-George, Mr.	3			Discharged 13 Mar.; added 18 May.
	Long, Mr. Walter	6			
	Long, Colonel	1			
	Loyd, Mr. A. K.	5			Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	MacDonnell, Dr.	0			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
17.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*cont.*	MacAleese, Mr. - - -	5		- -	Added 30 Mar
	Maclean, Mr. - - -	8		-	Added 20 Mar.
	Maxwell, Sir Herbert - -	3		-	Added 4 May; discharged 29 June.
	M'Arthur, Mr. Charles -	4		-	Added 4 July; discharged 26 July.
	Mellor, Colonel - - -	6			
	Milward, Colonel - -	5		- -	Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Montagu, Sir Samuel -	1			
	Monckton, Mr. - - -	5		- -	Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Morley, Mr. Charles - -	0			
	Oldroyd, Mr. - - -	2			
	Parkes, Mr. - - -	6			
	Pilkington, Colonel - -	13			
	Power, Mr. - - - -	0		- -	Discharged 30 March.
	Pretyman, Captain - -	6		-	Added 27 Mar.; discharged 29 June.
	Provand, Mr. - - -	0			
	Rankin, Sir James - -	12			
	Renshaw, Mr. - - -	11			
	Richardson, Sir Thomas -	1			
	Ritchie, Mr. - - -	9	-	- -	Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Rollit, Sir Albert - -	3			
	Round, Mr. - - -	3			
	Russell, General - - -	5		- -	Added 18 May; discharged 29 June.
	Russell, Mr. T. W. - -	7	-	- -	Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Seton-Karr, Mr. - - -	2			
	Shaw, Mr. Thomas - -	0			
	Sidebottom, Mr. T. H. -	3			
	Simeon, Sir Barrington -	9			
	Smith, Mr. Abel - .	4		-	Added 15 May; discharged 29 June.
	Smith, Mr. Samuel - -	6			
	Strachey, Mr. - - -	11			
	Stuart, Mr. James - -	1			
	Tennant, Mr. - - -	7		- -	Discharged 18 May; added 29 June.
	Tomlinson, Mr. - - -	13			
	Tully, Mr. - - - -	0			
	Welby, Sir Charles - -	6		- -	Added 27 Mar.; discharged 29 June.
	Whiteley, Mr. George -	0			
	Wilson, Mr. John (*Durham*)	2	-	- -	Discharged July; added 26 July.
	Wilson, Mr. John (*Falkirk*)	3			
	Wilson, Mr. J. W. (*Worcestershire, North*).	1		- -	Added 27 Mar.; discharged 3 April.
	Wolff, Mr. - - - -	6	-	- -	Discharged 15 May; added 29 June.
	Woodhouse, Sir J. - -	3	-	- -	Added 4 July; discharged 26 July.
	Young, Mr. Samuel - -	8			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
17.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*cont.*	*Added in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Act* (1897) *Extension Bill* - - (15)				
	Buchanan, Mr. - - -	1			
	Carlile, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Lord Dalkeith - - -	1	—	- -	Added 27 March.
	Foster, Mr. Harry - -	1			
	Goulding, Mr. - - -	1			
	Gull, Sir Cameron - -	1			
	Harcourt, Sir William -	0			
	Lawson, Mr. Grant - -	1			
	Lockwood, Colonel - -	1			
	Runciman, Mr. - - -	1			
	Sinclair, Captain - - -	1			
	Strutt, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Vaughan-Davies, Mr. - -	1			
	Warner, Mr. Courtenay -	1			
	Willoughby de Eresby, Lord	0	—	- -	Discharged 27 March.
	Wilson, Mr. Frederick -	1			
	Added in respect of the Railways (Prevention of Accidents) Bill - (15)				
	Blundell, Colonel - -	3			
	Bryce, Mr. - - - -	1			
	Butcher, Mr. - - -	1			
	Fellowes, Mr. - - -	2			
	Flannery, Sir Fortescue -	3			
	Gray, Mr. Ernest - -	3			
	Hoare, Mr. Brodie - -	1			
	Johnson-Ferguson, Mr. -	2			
	Maddison, Mr. - - -	2			
	O'Brien, Mr. Patrick - -	1			
	Pease, Sir Joseph - -	0			
	Purvis, Mr. - - - -	3			
	Robertson, Mr. Edmund -	0			
	Solicitor-General, Mr. (Sir Robert Finlay).	3			
	Woods, Mr.- - - -	0			
	Added in respect of the Agricultural Holdings Bill- - - - (15)				
	Acland-Hood, Sir Alexander	5			
	Carmichael, Sir Thomas Gibson-.	5			
	Ferguson, Mr. Munro - -	3			
	Humphreys-Owen, Mr. -	4	—	- -	Discharged 15 June.
	Johnstone, Mr. Heywood	5			
	Jones, Mr. Brynmor - -	2			
	Kinloch, Sir John - -	3			
	Lambert, Mr. - - -	3			
	Lord Advocate, The - -	4			
	More, Mr. Jasper - -	5			
	Percy, Earl - - - -	5			
	Pretyman, Captain - -	5			
	Price, Mr. - - - -	5			
	Solicitor General, Mr. (Sir Edward Carson).	5			

Subject of Inquiry, and Names of the Members who Moved for each Committee.	Names of Members appointed to Serve on each Committee and the Chairman of each.	Number of Days each Member attended.	Number of Days each Committee met.	Total Expense of Attendance of Witnesses.	REMARKS.
17.				£ s. d.	
Standing Committee on Trade, &c.—*cont.*	Wedderburn, Sir William -	2	–	- -	Added 15 June.
	Williams, Colonel - -	4			
	Added in respect of the Companies Bill.				
	Bainbridge, Mr. - - -	4			
	Banbury, Mr. - - -	6			
	Bond, Mr. - - - -	6			
	Bryce, Mr. - - - -	6			
	Crombie, Mr. - - -	6			
	Cross, Mr. Alexander - -	3			
	Gedge, Mr. - - - -	6			
	Holland, Mr. - - -	5			
	Marks, Mr. - - - -	6			
	Martin, Mr. - - -	6			
	Molloy, Mr. - - -	1			
	Rickett, Mr. Compton -	5			
	Solicitor General, Mr. (Sir Edward Carson).	4			
	Walton, Mr. Lawson - -	6			
	Warr, Mr. - - - -	6			
18.					
Standing Orders -	- - - - - -	–	16	- Nil.	
Appointed and Nominated, 6th February.	Halsey, Mr., Chairman -	16			
	Buchanan, Mr. - - -	9			
	Coddington, Sir William -	4			
	Ellis, Mr. John Edward -	14			
Moved for by Sir William Walrond.	Esmonde, Sir Thomas - -	3			
	Gourley, Sir Edward - -	7			
	Humphreys-Owen, Mr. -	10			
	Lowther, Mr. James - -	12			
	Mount, Mr. - - - -	13			
	Redmond, Mr. William -	3			
	Stewart, Sir Mark M'Taggart	12			
	Whitmore, Mr. - - -	6			
	Wodehouse, Mr. - - -	16			
19.					
War Office Contracts -	- - - - - -	–	22	4 13 -	
Appointed and Nominated, 1st May.	Jackson, Mr., Chairman -	22			
	Denny, Colonel - - -	12			
	Donelan, Captain - -	16			
	Elliot, Mr. - - - -	20			
Moved for by Sir William Walrond.	Firbank, Mr. - - -	22			
	Houston, Mr. - - -	3	–	- -	Discharged 15 May.
	Howell, Mr. - - -	12			
	Lewis, Mr. Herbert - -	16			
	Lockwood, Colonel - -	18			
	Loyd, Mr. - - - -	18			
	Mellor, Colonel - - -	14	–	- -	Added 15 May.
	M'Kenna, Mr. - - -	18			
	O'Brien, Mr. Patrick - -	19			
	Paulton, Mr. - - -	19			
	Rasch, Major - - -	20			
	Reid, Sir Robert - - -	13			

Total Number of Members who served on Select Committees - - - 381

House of Commons,
August 1900.

REGINALD DICKINSON,
Principal Clerk of Committees.

SUPPLY, SESSION 1900.

Class of Estimate, 1898–99, 1900.	No. of Votes.	Sittings of Committee.	No. of Votes agreed to.	Total No. of Votes agreed to.	No. remaining.
Civil Services (Excess 1898–99)	1	Mar. 13	1	1	0
Army (Excess 1898–99)	1	Mar. 15	1	1	0
Civil Service and Revenue Supplementary 1899–1900	16	Feb. 22	7	16	0
		Mar. 2	9		
Army Supplementary 1899–1900	2	Feb. 12	0	2	0
		,, 13	0		
		,, 15	1		
		,, 16	1		
Army Ordnance Factories Supplementary 1899–1900	1	Mar. 9	1	1	0
Total	21	9	21	21	0
Estimates, 1900–1901.					
Navy (including vote for men and 5 Supplementary Votes)	20	Feb. 27	1	20	0
		Mar. 1	0		
		,, 2	2		
		,, 8	11		
		,, 9	1		
		July 17	5		
Army (including vote for men and Ordnance Factories and 2 Supplementary Votes)	20	Mar. 12	0	20	0
		,, 13	2		
		,, 16	4		
		May 4	0		
		June 19	10		
		,, 29	1		
		July 27	1		
		Aug. 2	2		
Civil Services (vote on account)	1	Feb. 23	1	1	0
Civil Services:					
Class I.	14	Mar. 30	2	14	0
		April 26	5		
		Aug. 2	7		
,, II.	40	May 11	3	40	0
		,, 18	0		
		,, 24	1		
		,, 25	1		
		June 22	11		
		July 6	4		
		,, 13	0		
		,, 25	1		
		Aug. 2	19		
Carried forward	95		95	95	0

Class of Estimate, 1899–1900.	No. of Votes.	Sittings of Committee.	No. of Votes agreed to.	Total No. of Votes agreed to.	No. remaining.
Brought forward - -	95	—	95	95	0
Civil Services :					
Class III. - - - - - -	22	April 26 -	9	22	0
		May 25 -	1		
		July 20 -	1		
		Aug. 2 -	11		
,, IV. - - - - - -	14	June 14 -	0	14	0
		,, 15 -	8		
		July 20 -	1		
		Aug. 2 -	5		
,, V. (including 1 Supplementary Vote).	6	June 15 -	5	6	0
		Aug. 2 -	1		
,, VI. - - - - - -	4	June 19 -	3	4	0
		Aug. 2 -	1		
,, VII. (including 1 Supplementary Vote).	5	June 19 -	3	5	0
		Aug. 2 -	2		
Revenue Departments - -	5	April 27 -	0	5	0
		May 4 -	2		
		,, 11 -	3		
Total - - -	151	29	151	151	0

ALLOTTED DAYS ON WHICH SUPPLY HAS BEEN CONSIDERED.

			Votes agreed to
Friday - - - -	Feb. 23	Vote on Account - - -	1
Thursday - - -	Mar. 1	Navy - - - - - - -	0
Friday - - - -	,, 2	,, - - - - - - -	2
,, - - - - -	,, 16	Army - - - - - - -	4
Thursday - - -	April 26	Civil Service, Class 1 - - -	5
		,, ,, Class 3 - - -	9
Friday - - - -	,, 27	Revenue - - - - - -	0
,, - - - - -	May 4	Army - - - - - -	0
		Revenue - - - - - -	2
,, - - - - -	,, 11	Revenue - - - - - -	3
		Civil Service, Class 2 - - -	3
,, - - - - -	,, 18	,, ,, - - -	0
Thursday - - -	,, 24	,, ,, - - -	1
Friday - - - -	,, 25	,, ,, - - -	1
		,, Class 3 - - -	1
Thursday - - -	June 14	,, Class 4 - - -	0
Friday - - - -	,, 15	,, ,, - - -	8
		,, Class 5 - - -	5
Tuesday - - -	,, 19	Army - - - - - -	10
		Civil Service, Class 6 - - -	3
		,, Class 7 - - -	3
Friday - - - -	,, 22	,, Class 2 - - -	11
,, - - - - -	,, 29	Army - - - - - -	1
,, - - - - -	July 6	Civil Service, Class 2 - - -	4
,, - - - - -	,, 13	,, ,, - - -	0
Tuesday - - -	,, 17	Navy - - - - - -	5
Friday - - - -	,, 20	Civil Service, Class 4 - - -	1
		,, Class 3 - - -	1
,, - - - - -	,, 27	,, Class 2 - - -	1
		Army (Supplementary) - -	1
Thursday - - -	Aug. 2	Civil Service, Class 1 - - -	7
		,, Class 2 - - -	19
		,, Class 3 - - -	11
		,, Class 4 - - -	5
		,, Class 5 - - -	1
		,, Class 6 - - -	1
		,, Class 7 - - -	2
		Army - - - - - -	2
Friday - - - -	Aug. 3	Report - - - - - -	53
	23		

Public Bill Office,
6*th August*, 1900.

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER No. 25).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 August, 1900;—*for*,

RETURN respecting APPLICATION of STANDING ORDER NO. 25 (CLOSURE of DEBATE) during SESSION II. of 1899, and SESSION 1900, under the following heads:—

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
		SESSION II. OF 1899.			
19th October -	Mr. Balfour - -	Queen's Speech (Motion for an Address):— That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, as followeth:— Most Gracious Sovereign,— We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament. Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty our strong disapproval of the conduct of the negotiations with the Government of the Transvaal which have involved us in hostilities with the two South African Republics." That those words be there added.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 356; Noes, 158.

		The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division,			
19th October -	Mr. Balfour - -	Claimed— - - - - - - - - - That the Main Question be now put.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Main Question put accordingly.
20th October -	Mr. Balfour - -	Supply - - - - - - - - - - - Army (Supplementary) Estimates, 1899-1900. That a further number of Land Forces, not exceeding 35,000 all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900.	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 194 ; Noes, 42.
		SESSION 1900.			
9th February	Mr. Sydney Gedge	Queen's Speech - - - - - - - - That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, as followeth :— Most Gracious Sovereign,— We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament. Amendment proposed, at the end of the Question, to add the words, "But we humbly represent to Your Majesty that the administration of the Irish Land Acts is not satisfactory to any class of Your Majesty's Irish subjects, and that the only and permanent solution of the Irish Land question must be found in a measure providing for the general and immediate creation of an occupying proprietary in that country." That those words be there added.	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	——

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
9th February -	Mr. Balfour -	Queen's Speech - - - - - - - - - Main Question :—" That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, as followeth :— Most Gracious Sovereign, We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 215; Noes, 64.
15th February	Mr. Balfour -	Supply - - - - - - - - - - Army (Supplementary) Estimates, 1899–1900. Number of Land Forces. That a further number of Land Forces, not exceeding 120,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division; Ayes, 236; Noes, 39.

16th February	Mr. Balfour -	Supply - - - - - - - - - - - Army (Supplementary) Estimates, 1899-1900. That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £13,000,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for Additional Expenditure, in consequence of the War in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz. :— £ Vote 1. Pay, &c., of the Army - - - 2,400,000 Vote 2. Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. 70,000 Vote 3. Militia : Pay, &c. - - - 250,000 Vote 4. Yeomanry Cavalry : Pay and Allowances. 5,000 Vote 5. Volunteer Corps : Pay and Allowances. 15,000 Vote 6. Transport and Remounts - - 5,000,000 Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies. 3,000,000 Vote 8. Clothing Establishments and Services. 500,000 Vote 9. Warlike and other Stores - - 1,600,000 Vote 10. Works, &c.: Cost (including Staff for Engineer Services.) 150,000 Vote 13. War Office Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges. 10,000 Total - - - - £13,000,000	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 189 ; Noes, 47.
16th February	Mr. Balfour -	Ways and Means - - - - - - - - That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, the sum of £13,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 227 ; Noes, 40.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against
19th February	Mr. Balfour - -	Supply [16th February],—Resolution *reported*; - - Army (Supplementary) Estimates, 1899-1900. That a (Supplementary) sum, not exceeding £13,000,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for Additional Expenditure, in consequence of the War in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz.:— £ Vote 1. Pay, &c. of the Army - - - 2,400,000 Vote 2. Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. 70,000 Vote 3. Militia: Pay, &c. - - - - 250,000 Vote 4. Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances - - - - - 5,000 Vote 5. Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances - - - - - 15,000 Vote 6. Transport and Remounts - - 5,000,000 Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies - - - - - 3,000,000 Vote 8. Clothing Establishments and Services - - - - - - 500,000 Vote 9. Warlike and other Stores - - 1,600,000 Vote 10. Works, &c.: Cost (including Staff for Engineer Services) - 150,000 Vote 13. War Office Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges - - - 10,000 Total - - - -£13,000,000 That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 207; Noes, 30.

19th February	Mr. Balfour -	Ways and Means [16th February],—Resolution *reported;* That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of £13,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom. That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 189; Noes, 31.
22nd February	Mr. Balfour - -	Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill - - - - - - That the Bill be now read the third time.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 255; Noes, 52.
23rd February	Mr. Balfour - -	Supply - - - - - - - - - - Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1900–1901 (Vote on Account): That a sum, not exceeding £16,626,000, be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901. That the Item Class 2, Vote 8 (Board of Trade), be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the President of the Board of Trade. The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division,	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 121; Noes, 40.
23rd February	Mr. Balfour - -	Claimed— - - - - - - - - - That the Original Question be now put.	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Original Question put accordingly.
28th February	Mr. Herbert Lewis	Mines (Eight Hours) Bill - - - - - - That the Bill be now read a second time. Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." That the word "now" stand part of the Question.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 257; Noes, 118.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
2nd May -	Mr. John Wilson (Govan).	Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill - - - That the Bill be now read a second time. Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months." That the word "now" stand part of the Question.	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	—
15th May -	Mr. Samuel Smith	London Theatres - - - - - - - - That this House regrets the growing tendency to put upon the stage plays of a demoralising character, and considers that a stricter supervision of theatrical performances is needed alike in the interest of the public and the theatrical profession.	In House -	The Speaker's assent withheld.	—
28th May -	Mr. Balfour -	Adjournment of the House (Whitsuntide) - - - That this House at its rising do adjourn till Thursday, 14th June, and that so soon as Government business is disposed of this day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.	In House -	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 187 ; Noes, 67.
20th June -	Mr. Abraham (Rhondda)	Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill - That the Bill, as amended, be now considered.	In House	The Speaker's assent withheld.	—
3rd July -	Mr. Balfour - -	TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL- - - - Clause 1 :— That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.	In Committee -	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division : Ayes, 144 ; Noes, 64.

4th July	Mr. Gerald Balfour	TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL Clause 2:— That the words proposed to be left out to the word "and" in page 2, line 4, stand part of the Clause.	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 176; Noes, 108.
9th July	Mr. Gerald Balfour	Ditto - ditto - ditto Clause 3:— Amendment proposed, in page 2, line 28, after the word "hereditaments" to insert the words "in respect of which judicial rents have been fixed." That those words be there inserted.	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 179; Noes, 106.
9th July	Mr. Gerald Balfour	Ditto - ditto - ditto That the question, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill," be now put.	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 197; Noes, 101.
11th July	Mr. Balfour	Agricultural Holdings Bill (as amended by the Standing Committee). That further proceedings on consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), be adjourned till to-morrow.	In House	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 137; Noes, 50.
12th July	Mr. Chaplin	Housing of the Working Classes Act (1890) Amendment Bill. That the Bill be now read the third time.	In House	The Speaker's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 108; Noes, 38.

Date when Closure Moved.	By whom Moved.	Question before House or Committee when Moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether Assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers For and Against.
25th July	Mr. Balfour	Supply Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1900–1901. Class II. That a sum, not exceeding £32,250, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain expenses connected with emigration. That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State.	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	Closure carried on Division: Ayes, 169; Noes, 100.
25th July	Mr. Balfour	The above proposed Amendment having been negatived on Division, Claimed— That the Original Question be now put.	In Committee	The Chairman's assent given.	Original Question put accordingly.

RETURN respecting Application of Standing Order No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session II. of 1899 and Session 1900—*continued*.

SUMMARY.

Session.	Name of Member by whom Closure Moved, and Number of Times Moved.	Total Number of Times Closure Moved.	Number of Times Closure Moved in House.	Number of Times Closure Moved in Committee.	Number of Times Assent given to Closure by Mr. Speaker.	Number of Times Assent withheld by Mr. Speaker.	Number of Times Assent given to Closure by the Chairman.	Number of Times Assent withheld by the Chairman.	Number of Times Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Number of Times Closure Carried on Division.	Number of Times Closure Negatived on Division.	Number of Times Closure Agreed to without a Division.	Number of Times Closure not in Order.
Session II. of 1899.	Mr. Balfour (3) -	3	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	*1	0
Session 1900.	Mr. Abraham (Rhondda) (1).	23	12	11	8	4	11	0	0	17	0	†2	0
	Mr. Balfour (14) -												
	Mr. Gerald Balfour (3).												
	Mr. Chaplin (1) -												
	Mr. Sydney Gedge (1).												
	Mr. Herbert Lewis (1).												
	Mr. Samuel Smith (1).												
	Mr. John Wilson (Govan) (1).												

* One Main Question claimed to be put. † Two Original Questions claimed to be put.

William H. Ley,
Clerk of the Journals.

9 *August* 1900

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 17.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 July, 1900;—*for*,

RETURN "of MOTIONS for ADJOURNMENT under STANDING ORDER No. 17, showing the Date of such Motion, the Name of the Member proposing, the definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance, and the Result of any Division taken thereon, during Session II. of 1899 and the Session of 1900 (in the same Form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper, No. 324, of Session I. of 1899)."

I.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE SIGNIFIED WITHOUT A CALL UPON MEMBERS TO RISE IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session II. of 1899.

Nil.

Session 1900.

Nil.

II.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE SIGNIFIED BY MORE THAN FORTY MEMBERS RISING IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session II. of 1899.

Nil.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

SESSION 1900.

15 March, 1900. Page 189 of the Votes. Disturbances directed against opponents of the war in South Africa.

(Sir *Robert Reid*, Member for Dumfries),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the recent serious disturbances in many parts of the Country;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Question, That this House do now adjourn, negatived on Division (Ayes, 120; Noes, 229).

30 March, 1900. Page 246 of the Votes. Alien Seamen in British Ships.

(Mr. *Havelock Wilson*, Member for Middlesborough),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the imminent despatch by the Government of the steamship *Caspian*, and the steamship *Sapphire*, with Government stores for Her Majesty's troops in South Africa, though manned in large part by alien seamen;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Question, That this House do now adjourn, negatived without a Division.

18 May, 1900. Page 393 of the Votes. Final Court of Appeal (Irish Representation).

(Mr. *T. M. Healy*, Member for North Louth),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the refusal of Her Majesty's present Advisers to recognise the just claim of Ireland to representation in the Final Court of Appeal for the three Kingdoms, and the breach of constitutional usage involved in the appointment of an English Judge to the vacancy created by the resignation of the Irish Law Lord;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Motion, That this House do now adjourn, negatived on Division (Ayes, 99; Noes, 144).

3 July, 1900. Page 555 of the Votes. British Legation at Peking.

(Mr. *Pritchard Morgan*, Member for Merthyr Tydvil),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the present position of the British Legation at Peking, and the necessity of taking immediate and definite steps in the matter;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn, and Motion withdrawn.

5 July, 1900. Page 568 of the Votes. South African War (Inquiry into Treatment of Sick and Wounded).

(Mr. *Labouchere*, Member for Northampton),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the composition and the scope of the reference to the Committee to be appointed to inquire into the treatment of sick and wounded British soldiers in South Africa;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn, and Motion withdrawn.

9 July, 1900. Page 582 of the Votes. County and District Surveyors (Wexford). Action of Local Government Board.

(Sir *Thomas Esmonde*, Member for Kerry, West Division),—for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the recent action of the Local Government Board for Ireland in raising the salaries and qualifications of the County and District Surveyors in county Wexford, and in endeavouring to enforce the payment of these increased salaries as from to-morrow, by sealed order, notwithstanding the protests of the County Council;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than 40 Members having accordingly risen; Question, That this House do now adjourn, negatived on Division (Ayes, 114; Noes, 199).

III.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE GIVEN ON DIVISION.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session II. of 1899.
Nil.

Session 1900.
Nil.

IV.—LEAVE OF THE HOUSE REFUSED BY LESS THAN FORTY MEMBERS RISING IN THEIR PLACES.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session II. of 1899.
Nil.

Session 1900.
Nil.

V.—MR. SPEAKER DECLINES TO ALLOW THE MOTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Session II. of 1899.
Nil.

Session 1900.
Nil.

William H. Ley,
Clerk of the Journals.

10 August 1899.

SUMMARY.

Motions for Adjournment.	Session II 1899.	Session 1900.
I.—Leave of the House signified without a Call upon Members to rise in their Places - - - - - - - -	0	0
II.—Leave of the House signified by not less than Forty Members rising in their Places - - - - - - - -	0	6
III.—Leave of the House given on Division - - - - -	0	0
IV.—Leave of the House Refused by less than Forty Members rising in their Places - - - - - - - -	0	0
V.—Motions for Adjournment not allowed by Mr. Speaker to be submitted to the House - - - - - - -	0	0

Number of Times Members asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House in each of the following Years.

1882 - - - - - - -	4	1892 - - - - - - -	3
1883 - - - - - - -	5	1893–94 - - - - - - -	20
1884 - - - - - - -	9	1894 - - - - - - -	4
1885 - - - - - - -	4	1895 - {Session 1 - 2 Session 2 - 0} - -	2
1886 - - - - - - -	4	1896 - - - - - - -	6
1887 - - - - - - -	11	1897 - - - - - - -	7
1888 - - - - - - -	10	1898 - - - - - - -	5
1889 - - - - - - -	7	1899 - {Session 1 - 5 Session 2 - 0} - -	5
1890 - - - - - - -	6	1900 - - - - - - -	6
1891 - - - - - - -	5		

William H. Ley,

9 August 1900.

Clerk of the Journals.

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 31 July 1900;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PUBLIC PETITIONS Presented and Printed in Session II. of 1899, and in the Session of 1900; with the Total Number of Signatures in those Sessions (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0.275, of Session 1898)."

YEAR.	Number of Petitions Presented.	Number of Petitions Printed.	Total Number of Signatures.
1899 Session II. - - - -	25	0	1,347
1900 - - - - - -	11,126	118	648,906
Total - - - -	11,151	118	650,253

William H. Ley,
Clerk of the Journals.

9*th August*, 1900.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c.,

WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED DURING THE SESSION, AND ARE REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO LIE FOR AN APPOINTED NUMBER OF DAYS UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Manufacture of Bichromate or Chromate of Potassium or Sodium),—Copy of Special Rules with regard to the employment of persons in Chemical Works in which is carried on the manufacture of Bichromate or Chromate of Potassium or Sodium [58 and 59 Vic., c. 37, s. 28 (1)]	30 January	40 days
Factory and Workshop Acts (Use of Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches),—Copy of Special Rules with regard to the employment of persons in Lucifer Match Factories in which White or Yellow Phosphorus is used [58 and 59 Vic., c. 37, s. 28 (1)]	30 January	40 days.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of a Statute made by the Governing Body of Brasenose College, Oxford, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 15th March, 1899, altering Statutes III. and XVI. of the Statutes of that College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]	30 January	12 weeks.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of a Statute made by the Governing Body of Pembroke College, Oxford, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 3rd March, 1899, amending Clause 9 of Statute II. and Clause 3 of Statute VIII. of the Statutes of that College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]	30 January	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of a Statute made by the Governing Body of Worcester College, Oxford, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, at a meeting held on 22nd February, 1899, and continued by adjournment on 8th March, 1899, amending Statute III. 10 of the Statutes of that College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]	30 January	12 weeks.
College Charter Act, 1871 (University of Birmingham),—Copy of an Application received from Mason University College of the City of Birmingham for the establishment of a University at that City; which was submitted to the Queen in Council and referred by Her Majesty for the Consideration and Report of a Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council on the 14th July, 1899; together with a copy of the Draft of the Charter applied for [34 and 35 Vic., c. 63, s. 2]	30 January	30 days.
Prisons (Scotland),—Copy of Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland, under the Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, appointing the Police Cells at Falkirk, in the county of Stirling, to be a legal Prison for the detention of prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during or after trial [40 and 41 Vic., c. 53, s. 58]	30 January	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Winter Assizes (Ireland,—Copy of Four Orders in Council, dated 1st November, 1899, for holding Winter Assizes in Ireland [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	31 January	100 sitting days.
Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877,—Copy of Order in Council, amending Order of 25th February, 1885, rearranging the Circuits in Ireland [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	31 January	100 sitting days.
Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877,—Copy of Order in Council, giving effect to Rules of Court under The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898 [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	31 January	100 sitting days.
Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877,—Copy of Order in Council, giving effect to Rules of Court (Bankruptcy) [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	31 January	100 sitting days.
Land Transfer Act, 1897,—Copy of Order in Council of 28th November, 1899, postponing the operation of the Land Transfer Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, in certain portions of the county of London [60 and 61 Vic., c. 65, s. 20 (9)]	1 February	40 days.
Education (Scotland),—Copy of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 5th February, 1900, relative to the Minute of 18th May, 1899, as to the application of Article 21 and Chapter IX. of the Code of 1899 [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	5 February	1 month.
Prisons (Ireland),—Copy of Order in Council approving of a Rule made by the General Prisons Board for Ireland, dated 9th August, 1899, in pursuance of The Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1899 [40 and 41 Vic., c. 49, s. 57 (c)]	5 February	40 days.
University of London Act, 1898,—Copy of Statutes made for the University of London by the Commissioners appointed under The University of London Act, 1898 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 62, s. 5 (2)]	16 February	40 days.
South Australia (Constitution Amendment Act, 1899),—Copy of The Constitution Amendment Act, 1899, of South Australia, No. 731 [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32].	22 February	30 days.
Education Department,—Copy of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 4th August, 1899, modifying Articles 15 and 15* of the Evening Continuation Schools Code, 1899 [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	22 February	1 calendar month.
Education (Scotland) (Code 1900),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Day Schools by the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in Scotland [35 and 36 Vic., c, 62, s. 67]	23 February	1 month.
Sea Fisheries Regulation Act, 1888,—Copy of Order made by the Board of Trade, under the provisions of The Sea Fisheries Regulation Act, 1888, for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Districts, together with Report by Inspector on Inquiry [51 and 52 Vic., c. 54, s. 1 (4)]	26 February	30 days.
Education Department (Code 1900),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, with Schedules and Appendices, by the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	27 February	1 month.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table
Education Department,—Copy of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 26th February, 1900, providing for Grants on Account of the Education of Defective and Epileptic Children, and prescribing Conditions to be fulfilled by Certified Schools for such Children [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	28 February	1 month.
University of London Act, 1898,—Copy of Regulations made for the University of London by the Commissioners under The University of London Act, 1898, dated 27th February, 1900 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 62, s. 5 (2)]	1 March	40 days.
Western Australia (Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899),—Copy of The Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899, of Western Australia, No. XIX. [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32]	5 March	30 days.
Western Australia (Electoral Act, 1899),—Copy of the Electoral Act, 1899, of Western Australia, No. XX. [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32]	5 March	30 days.
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of Ordinance No. 1 of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh, providing for the separation of the teaching of Medical Jurisprudence or Forensic Medicine and Public Health in the University of Edinburgh [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20 (1)]	7 March	12 weeks.
Inebriate Reformatories (Scotland) (Regulations),—Copy of Regulations under The Inebriates Act, 1898, made by the Secretary for Scotland for the Rule and Management of a State Inebriate Reformatory, and for the classification, treatment, employment, and control of persons sent to it, and for their absence under Licence [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	9 March	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting).
London Government Act, 1899 (Metropolitan Boroughs),—Copy of Drafts of Orders in Council for the establishment of each of the under-mentioned Metropolitan Boroughs, and incorporating the Council thereof, and for other purposes connected therewith :—Battersea, Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Deptford, Fulham, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Poplar, St. Marylebone, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, and Woolwich [62 and 63 Vic., c. 14, s. 15 (2)]	13 March	30 days.
London Government Act, 1899 (Metropolitan Boroughs), Copy of Drafts of Orders in Council for the establishment of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Camberwell and Westminster, and incorporating the Councils thereof, and for other purposes connected therewith [62 and 63 Vic., c. 14, s. 15 (2)]	16 March	30 days.
London Government Act, 1899 (Metropolitan Boroughs,—Copy of Drafts of Orders in Council for the establishment of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Holborn, St. Pancras, and Stepney, and incorporating the Councils thereof, and for other purposes connected therewith [62 and 63 Vic., c. 14, s. 15 (2)]	27 March	30 days.
Irish Land Commission (Rules),—Copy of Rule made by the Irish Land Commission under the Land Purchase Acts, dated the 19th March, 1900 [44 and 45 Vic., c. 49, s. 50 (3)]	28 March	100 sitting days

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
London Government Act, 1899 (Metropolitan Boroughs),—Copy of Drafts of Orders in Council for the establishment of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Chelsea, Finsbury, Kensington, and Paddington, and incorporating the Councils thereof; and for other purposes in connection therewith [62 and 63 Vic., c. 14, s. 15 (2)]	29 March	30 days.
Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877,—Copy of Order in Council, dated 31st March, 1900, giving effect to a Rule of Court [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	3 April	100 sitting days.
Board of Education,—Copy of Minute, dated 6th April, 1900, establishing Higher Elementary Schools [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	6 April	1 month
Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899,—Copy of Regulations for the Appointment of Members of the Council of Agriculture, the Agricultural Board, and the Board of Technical Instruction, under The Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899 [62 and 63 Vic., c 50, s. 28]	9 April	40 sitting days.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule and Time Table of Examinations for 1900 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	26 April	40 days
Education Department, Copy of Revised Regulations of the 23rd April, 1900, as to Certificates of Age, Proficiency, and School Attendance [39 and 40 Vic., c. 79, s. 24]	26 April	1 month.
Public Records (Admiralty),—Copy of Sixth Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents which have been removed from the Office of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	26 April	4 weeks.
Public Records (South Eastern Circuit), — Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or in ordinary course about to exist in the office of the Clerk of Assize of the Home Division of the South Eastern Circuit, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	26 April	4 weeks.
Union of Benefices Act (Saint Giles, Cripplegate, and Saint Bartholomew, Little Moorfields), — Copy of Scheme for effecting an union of the Benefices of Saint Giles, Cripplegate, and Saint Bartholomew, Little Moorfields [23 and 24 Vic., c. 142, s. 15]	26 April	2 months
Education (Scotland) (Evening Continuation Schools),—Copy of Scotch Code of Regulations for Evening Continuation Schools, with Schedule and Appendices [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	27 April	1 month.

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Factory and Workshop Acts (Use of Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches),—Copy of Amended Special Rules with regard to the employment of persons in certain Lucifer Match Factories in which White or Yellow Phosphorus is used, as established by arbitration, in pursuance of section 8 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1891 [58 and 59 Vic., c. 37, s. 28 (1)]	27 April	40 days.
Education Department (Evening Continuation Schools),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Evening Continuation Schools, with Explanatory Memorandum, Schedule, and Appendices by the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	30 April	1 month.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge),—Copy of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Trinity College, Cambridge, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 25th November, 1899, amending Statutes 12, 49, 52, and 54 of the Statutes of that College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	1 May	12 weeks.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Brasenose College, Oxford, under the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 20th October, 1899, amending Clause 13 of Statute III. of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	1 May	12 weeks.
Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877,—Copy of Order in Council, dated 27th April, 1900, giving effect to Rules of Court under section 5 of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 [40 and 41 Vic., c. 57, s. 69]	1 May	100 sitting days.
Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899,—Copy of Rules made under section 3 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 50, s. 28]	21 May	40 sitting days.
Judicial Trustee Rules,—Copy of Rule made by the Lord Chancellor under The Judicial Trustees Act, 1896 [59 and 60 Vic., c. 35, s. 4 (2)]	21 May	30 days.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council for transferring to, and making exerciseable by, the Board of Education certain powers of the Charity Commissioners [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	21 May	4 weeks.
Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899,—Copy of General Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 47, s. 15]	28 May	1 month.
Post Office Savings Bank (Regulations),—Copy of Draft Post Office Savings Bank Regulations, 1900 [50 and 51 Vic., c. 40, s. 4]	28 May	40 days.
Trustee Savings Banks (Regulations),—Copy of Draft Regulations of the Trustee Savings Banks, 1900 [50 and 51 Vic., c. 40, s. 4]	28 May	40 days.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Irish Land Commission (Rules),—Copy of Rules made by the Irish Land Commission, under The Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Act, 1899, dated 21st May, 1900 [44 and 45 Vic., c. 49, s. 50 (3)]	14 June	100 sitting days.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which Examinations shall be held for 1900 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	14 June	40 days.
Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts,—Copy of Scheme under The Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and Amending Acts, for the Management of the Charity of William Price, in the parish of Fareham, in the county of Southampton, founded by Will dated 24th August, 1721 [36 and 37 Vic., c. 87, s. 15]	14 June	2 months.
Prisons (Scotland) Dietaries,—Copy of Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland, under The Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of Dietaries for the several classes of prisoners [40 and 41 Vic., c. 53, s. 58]	14 June	40 days.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford), —Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 9th December, 1900, amending Statutes III. 1, III. 14, V. 4a, and XV. 2 of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	18 June	12 weeks.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford), —Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Worcester College, Oxford, under The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877, on 24th January, 1900, amending Statute III. 16 of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	18 June	12 weeks.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1901 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	20 June	40 days.
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing Bangor, County Down, an additional place of Examination for Boys in 1900 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	20 June	40 days.
Inebriate Reformatories (Rules for Management),—Copy of Regulations for the management of the Farmfield certified Inebriate Reformatory, Charlwood, near Horley [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	25 June	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting).
Public Records (Court of Exchequer),—Copy of a Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents connected with actions arising out of seizures of goods, &c., or for the recovery of penalties under Acts relating to the Customs or Excise, and other Process in matters relating to the Revenue, which formerly were or ought to have been in the Office of the King's or Queen's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and which are now in the Public Record Office, but are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	26 June	4 weeks.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council constituting a Consultative Committee of the Board of Education [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	28 June	4 weeks.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Particulars of Piece Work Wages) (Pen Making),—Copy of Order of the Secretary of State, dated 12th July, 1900, applying with modifications the provisions of section 40 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to Factories and Workshops in which is carried on the making of Pens [41 Vic., c. 16, s. 65 (3)]	13 July	40 days.
Inebriate Retreats (Rules for Management),—Copy of Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the domestic management of the Corngreaves Hall Retreat, licensed as a Retreat under the Inebriate Acts, 1879 to 1899 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	27 July	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting).
Board of Education,—Copy of Minute of the Board of Education, dated 31st July, 1900, modifying Article 101 (g) of the Day School Code, 1900 [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	Presented in dummy 3rd August	One month after presentation of complete Copy.
Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899,—Copy of General Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 47, s. 15 (3)]	7 August	1 month.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

WHICH NOW STAND IN THE ORDER BOOK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

FOR THE NEXT SESSION.

1. Mr. Harwood,—Export of Coal,—To call attention to the Export of Coal; and to move a Resolution.

2. Mr. David MacIver,—Sugar Refining Industry,—To call attention to the depressed condition of the Sugar Refining Industry in this Country; and to move, That, in the interest of the working classes, and especially of those who are or have been connected with the Sugar Refining and allied Industries, this House would welcome legislation applicable to Great Britain and Ireland based upon the principle of The Indian Tariff Act, 1899.

3. Sir Francis Powell,—Standing Committees (Amendment of Standing Order 50),—New Proviso in lieu of existing Proviso:—Provided always, that every such Bill, on report to the House, shall be appointed for Consideration; and if a Bill has been amended by the Standing Committee the provisions of Standing Order No. 40, "Consideration of Bills as amended," should not apply to such amended Bill.

4. Sir Albert Rollit,—Teachers in Public Elementary Schools,—To call attention to the question of the tenure of office of Teachers in Public Elementary Schools; and to move a Resolution.

5. Sir Albert Rollit,—Gas Light and Coke Company,—To call attention to the excessive increase of charges for the public and private supply of gas in North London by the Gas Light and Coke Company, Limited; and to move a Resolution.

GENERAL INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

IN THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

63° ET 64° VICTORIÆ.

1900.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills : Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report.

Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply and on the Address in Answer to the Queen's Speech are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee or the Queen's Speech. The abbreviation "*S*" has been adopted as explanation under the subjects discussed in Committee of Supply.

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- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1161.
  - 2R.* *Feb. 16* [79] 194.
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- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1161.
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  - 2R.* *Mar. 12* [80] 546.
  - Committed, *Mar. 19* [80] 1161.
  - Report,* *Apr. 3* [81] 1045.
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- *l.* Commons Amendts.* *June 25* [84] 876.
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l. Royal Assent, *June 25* [84] 873.

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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 742.

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  - 2R.* *Mar.* 5 [80] 20.
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  - *Os.* Mr. S. MacNeill, *Apr. 26* [82] 21, 29; Sir R. Webster, 27.
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Q. Col. Milward; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Apr. 2* [81] 943.
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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 27* [79] 1204.
Supplies shipped from French Ports, etc.—Inaction of Portuguese Officials
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *May 4* [82] 751.
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O. Mr. G. Bowles, *Feb. 26* [79] 1141.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Feb. 23* [79] 929.
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O. Marquess of Lansdowne, *Mar. 12* [80] 550.

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Q. Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 22* [81] 41.

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c. 1R.* *Aug. 3* [87] 660.

Cook Islands
- Report for 1899, *June 26* [84] 1029.

Cooke, Mr. C. W. R. [Hereford]
- Agricultural Holdings Bill, *Con.*, *July 12* [85] 1393.
- Companies Bill, *Con.*, *July 24* [86] 1065.
- Doyle's, Dr. Conan, Rifle Invention—War Office Refusing to Investigate, alleged, *Mar. 9* [80] 483.
- London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) Bill, 2R., *May 23* [83] 1066.
- Mark IV. Ammunition, Failure of, at Bisley—Inquiry, *Feb. 15* [79] 76.
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  - Number of Ranges Closed, etc., *Feb. 1* [78] 275; *Feb. 9*, 1050.
- South African War—Maps, Surveys, etc., *Feb. 1* [78] 263.
- Volunteers
  - Bearer Companies, Raising—Extra Company, etc., *Mar. 12* [80] 580.
  - Industrial Value of Military Discipline, Training Volunteers to Shoot, etc., *Mar. 16* [80] 1128.
  - "Waiting Companies," Period prior to Calling up for Service—Regulations, *Apr. 6* [81] 1399.
- Volunteers Bill, *Com.*, *July 23* [86] 935.
- Weather Forecasts, Telegraphing to Post Offices in Country Districts, proposed, *Feb. 23* [79] 937.
- Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill, *Con.*, *June 20* [84] 552.
- Yeomanry Equipment—Differences in Colour of Great Coats and Horse Rugs, *Feb. 15* [79] 70.

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- Instruction in, for Boys going into Mercantile Marine Service
  - *Q.* Mr. Hobhouse; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *July* 5 [85] 633.

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- Alterations in Regulations for Admission of Students, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *Aug. 7* [87] 929.
- Evidence from Government of India and the Select Committee of the House of Commons
  - *Q.* Mr. Kimber; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *Aug. 7* [87] 928.

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- Post Office—New Premises in Apothecary's Shop, Cost of Removing Fixtures, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 6* [85] 789.
- Postmastership Appointment
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *June 25* [84] 914; *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. Daly; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 5* [85] 635; *Qs.* Mr. S. Young; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 13* [85] 1470; *July 19* [86] 472.
- Urban Council, Election of Mr. P. Smith as Clerk—Approval of Local Government Board
  - *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 21* [83] 746.

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- Board of Agriculture Annual Report, *Mar. 20* [80] 1290, 1303.

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Copyright Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Mar. 5* [80] 4.
  - 2R. Postponed, *Mar. 26* [81] 303.
  - 2R., *Mar. 29*, 606.
  - Report from Select Committee, *July 5* [85] 570; *July 19* [86] 415.
  - *Com. July 9*, 932.
  - Report* *July 10*, 1098.
  - 3R.* *July 12* [85] 1300.
- *c.* 1R.* *July 13*, 1474.
  - Bill Withdrawn, *Aug. 1* [87] 384.

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- Colonial Governments' Replies
  - *Q.* Mr. Lecky; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Mar. 22* [81] 42.
- Colonies and the Copyright Bill Debate (Lords), *Mar. 29* [81] 606.
- Dropped Bill
  - *Q.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 16* [86] 97.
- Progress of Bill, etc.—Government Legislation, Proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. Purvis; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 6* [87] 790.

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- *l.* 1R.* *Mar. 5* [80] 4.
  - 2R. Postponed, *Mar. 26* [81] 303.
  - 2R. *Mar. 29*, 609.
  - *Com.*, *July 23* [86] 837.
  - Reports from Select Committee, *July 19*, 415; *Aug. 7* [87] 895, 947; *Aug. 8*, 1014.

Copyrighted Rate Books
- Ireland
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 2* [78] 449.

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- Trade Report, *Apr. 5* [81] 1235.

Corbett, Mr. A. C. [Glasgow, Tradeston]
- Orphan Homes, Scotland — Children refused Public Education—Quarrier Home, etc., *Feb. 8* [78] 923.
- Reservists' Families' Pay—Dates of Payment, *Apr. 5* [81] 1257.
- Scouting—Col. Baden-Powell's Book on, German Government supplying to German Army—Distribution of Copies to Troops in South Africa, *May 3* [82] 577.

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- Contracts—Irish Firms
  - *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 23* [81] 188; *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 29* [81] 692.
- Cordite "Scandal"
  - *O.* Mr. Tully, *Feb. 16* [79] 297; *Feb. 19*, 454.
- Erosion of Guns—Committee of Inquiry
  - *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Paulton; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 17* [86] 226.
- Explosion on Board the "Revenge"
  - *O.* Adm. Field, *Feb. 26* [79] 1158; *July 17* [86] 338; *Q.* Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *Apr. 2* [81] 942; *Q.* Adm. Field; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *July 26* [86] 1310.
- Reserve of Cordite for the Navy
  - *O.* Sir J. Colomb, *July 17* [86] 337.

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- Assizes
  - Case of Edmond Carmody—Mitigation of Sentence
    - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 16* [86] 85.
  - Trial of Cadogan, Selection of Jurymen
    - *Q.* Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 23* [86] 884.
- Ballinacurra Foreshore, Sale of Rights to Lord Midleton
  - *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Capt. Donelan, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 30* [81] 809; *Qs.* Capt. Donelan, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 2* [81] 952.
- Dock—Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and others) Bill, *see* that title.
- Gaol—Death of A. Cull
  - *Qs.* Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, Mr. T. M. Healy, Dr. Tanner, Mr. P. O'Brien, Capt. Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 21* [83] 746; *Q.* Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 6* [85] 797.
- Gun Fatality at Camden Fort, *see* Camden Fort.
- Harbour — Pilotage Byelaw, Order in Council, *Feb. 1* [78] 234.

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- Holdings Purchased under Land Acts—Tenants sub-letting
  - *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 30* [81] 816; *Apr. 3*, 1074.
- Inland Revenue Office, Transferring to more convenient Centre
  - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 1* [78] 288; *Q.* Mr. D. Sullivan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 12* [80] 594; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 27* [81] 448; *Apr. 3* [81] 1070.
  - New Premises
    - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 30* [87] 35.
- Land Commission—Fair Rent Applications, Applications to Purchase Holdings, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 2* [78] 448.
  - Creagh Estate—Tenants' Application to Purchase
    - *Q.* Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 23* [81] 194.
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    - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 24* [86] 1062.
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    - *Qs.* Mr. E. Barry, Mr. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 29* [81] 714.
  - Postponement for one year and a half
    - *Q.* Mr. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 282.
- Lunatic Asylum—Criminal Lunatics transferred to
  - *Q.* Mr. Crean; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 30* [81] 815.
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  - Affray at Spike Island
    - *Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 30* [87] 23.
  - South Cork Militia—Non-Payment of Bounty
    - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 22* [81] 38; *Mar. 23*, 175.
- Muzzling Order
  - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Feb. 9* [78] 1059; *July 27* [86] 1522.
- Police, Extra Force, etc.
  - *Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 18* [83] 590.
- Post Office
  - Completion of Arrangements for New Post Office, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 12* [80] 594.
  - Establishment of Post Office at Dillon's Cross, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1335.
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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 15* [80] 931.
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Q. Mr. J. F. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 26* [81] 324.
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Qs. Mr. W. Abraham, Capt. Donelan ; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 12* [85] 1326 ; *Q.* Mr. W. Abraham ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 13*, 14.
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Q. Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 15* [80] 936 ; *Os.* Mr. Lough, Mr. Atkinson, 964.
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Q. Mr. J. F. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 26* [81] 325.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1164.
2R.* *Feb. 26* [79] 1042.
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3R.* *Apr. 5* [81] 1234.
c. 1R.* *Apr. 6* 1391.
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3R.* *May 22* [83] 919.
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l. Royal Assent, *June 25* [84] 873.

Cork Electric Tramways Bill
l. 1R., *Feb. 16* [79] 193.
2R.* *Mar. 12* [80] 546.
Committed, *Mar. 19*, 1161.

Cork Electric Tramways Bill—*cont.*
l. Report from Com. of Selection, *Apr. 2* [81] 918 ; *Apr. 9*, 1501 ; *Apr. 30* [82] 246 ; *May 7*, 866.
3R.* *May 14* [83] 4.
c. 1R.* *May 15*, 227.
2R., *May 28*, 1479.
*Rep.** *June 22* [84] 768.
*Con.** *July 5* [85] 613.
3R.* *July 9*, 936.
Commons Amendts.* *July 10*, 1081 ; *July 13*, 1425.
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Q. Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 16* [80] 1073 ; *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Capt. Donelan, Mr. P. O'Brien ; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1338 ; *Aug. 2* [87] 449.

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Lowther, Mr. J. on, *Mar. 19* [80] 1213.
O. Sir M. H. Beach, 1262.
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Q. Vis. Templetown ; *A.* Earl of Denbigh, *Aug. 2* [87] 404.
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Q. Mr. Round ; *A.* Mr. Macartney, *Mar. 29* [81] 689.

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Q. Mr. J. Wilson ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Mar. 29* [81] 709.
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Q. Mr. V. Davies ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Mar. 29* [81] 708.

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Q. Capt. Norton ; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *Apr. 2* [81] 943.
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Schools, Corporal Punishment in, *see* Education.
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2R., *Mar. 28* [81] 547.
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O. Lord E. Fitzmaurice, *July 30* [87] 8.
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Q. Sir W. Foster ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Feb. 12* [78] 1236.
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Q. Mr. Nussey ; *A.* Sir M. H. Beach, *Mar. 13* [80] 734.

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Costa Rica Railway Company, Limited, Bill
l. 1R.* *May 28* [83] 1409.
2R.* *June 21* [84] 573.
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Report,* *July 5* [85] 566.
3R.* *July 9*, 895.
c. 1R.* *July 9*, 941.
2R.* *July 18* [86] 341.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 742.

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Qs. Mr. J. A. Pease, Sir W. Foster ; *As.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 6* [80] 209 ; *Q.* Mr. Paulton ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *May 10* [82] 1248 ; *Q.* Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *May 15* [83] 241.

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"A Strong Army in a Free State," Pamphlet
O. Earl of Wemyss, *July 2* [85] 190.

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Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 23* [79] 939.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 2* [78] 423.
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Q. Mr. Hobhouse; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Mar. 5* [80] 37.
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Q. Capt. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 23* [86] 859.
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Technical Instruction Committees, Women Serving on—Return
Q. Mr. Jebb; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Apr. 3* [81] 1066.
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Q. Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 22* [79] 803.

County Councils (Elections) Act (1891) Amendment Bill
c. 1R.* *May 2* [82] 564.
2R., *May 10*, 1352.
*Com.** and *Rep.** *May 16* [83] 376.
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l. 1R.* *May 22*, 859.
2R., *May 28*, 1451.
*Com.** *June 19* [84] 415.
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Q. Mr. Monk; *A.* Sir R. Webster, *Feb. 22* [79] 813; *Q.* Mr. Nussey; *A.* Sir R. Webster, *May 1* [82] 425; *O.* Sir A. Rollit, *Apr. 26* [82] 52.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 8* [80] 386; *Os.* Sir C. Dilke, Sir R. Webster, *Apr. 26* [82] 51, 52; *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 27* [86] 1519.
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Q. Mr. Engledew; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 13* [78] 1376.
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l. 1R.* *Apr. 9* [81] 1504.
2R. *May 1* [82] 403.
3R.* *May 7*, 868.
c. 1R.* *May 16* [83] 312.
2R. *June 18* [84] 401.
*Com.** *June 21*, 734; *June 28*, 1431.
*Com.** and Report, *July 18* [86] 402.
Con. and 3R.* *July 19*, 583.
l. Commons Amendts.* *July 20*, 589; *Aug. 6* [87] 748.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 8*, 966.

County Courts (Ireland) Bill
l. 1R.* *July 9* [85] 896.
2R. *July 12*, 1298.

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l. Com. July 16* [86] 39.
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3R.* *July 19*, 420.
c. 1R.* *July 23*, 889.
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County Courts (Ireland) Bill
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Q. Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 23* [86] 878.

County Officers and Courts (Ireland) Act
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c. 1R.* *Apr. 6* [81] 1387.
2R.* *May 1* [82] 405.
Report.* *May 10*, 1229.
Con. *May 11*, 1357.
3R.* *May 14* [83] 21.

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l. 1R.* *May 15*, 151.
2R.* *May 28*, 1412.
Com. and Report,* *June 21* [84] 575.
3R.* *June 22*, 740.
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2R.* *May 5* [83] 151.
Committed to Committee of the whole House, *May 22*, 858.
Com. *May 25*, 1225.
Report,* *May 28*, 1413.
3R.* *June 18* [84] 254.
c. 1R.* *June 19*, 425.
Report,* *July 12* [85] 1302.
3R.* *July 13*, 1448.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 1.

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l. 1R.* *May 1* [82] 394.
2R.* *May 22* [83] 859.
Committed to Committee of the whole House, *June 18* [84] 253.
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3R.* *June 29* [85] 3.
c. 1R.* *July 2*, 258.
2R.* *July 10*, 1104.
Report,* *July 17* [86] 215.
3R.* *July 18*, 341.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 1.

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l. 1R.* *May 1* [82] 395.
2R.* *May 15* [83] 151.
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Com. *May 25*, 1225.
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c. 1R.* *June 19*, 425.
2R.* *July 3* [85] 390.
Report,* *July 12*, 1302.
3R.* *July 13*, 1448.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 1.

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c. 1R.* *May 9* [82] 1146.
2R.* *May 22*, 920.
Con. *June 29* [85] 58.
3R.* *July 2*, 256.
l. 1R.* *July 3*, 362.
2R.* *July 10*, 1094.
Committed to a Committee of the Whole House, *July 10*, 1081.
Com. and Report,* *July 16* [86] 5.
3R.* *July 17*, 191.
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 15* [83] 222.
2R.* *June 14* [84] 3.
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3R.* *June 29* [85] 58.

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2R.* *July 10*, 1094.
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Report from Committee of Selection, *July 16* [86] 3; *July 17* [86] 191.
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Report,* *July 31* [87] 143.
3R.* *Aug. 2*, 387.
c. Lords Amendts.* *Aug. 3*, 621.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 741.

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2R.* *July 10*, 1094.
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*Com.** *July 13*, 1426.
Report* *July 16* [86] 5.
3R.* *July 17*, 191.
c. Lords Amendts.* *July 20*, 637.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 8*, 965.

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l. 1R.* *Aug. 2*, 404.
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Q. Mr. Tritton; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 5* [81] 1267.

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l. 1R.* *May 4*, 705.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 742.

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  - Report from Select Committee, *May 23* [83] 1014.
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  - Report,* *July 24* [86] 985.
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l. 1R.* *Mar. 29*, 601.
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3R.* *Apr. 2* [81] 917.
c. 1R.* *Apr. 3*, 1078.
2R.* *Apr. 27* [82] 110.
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3R.* *May 10*, 1183.
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3R.* *Apr. 2*, 927.
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l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

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2R.* *Mar. 15* [80] 894.
Committed, *Mar. 22* [81] 2.
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3R.* *June 21* [84] 573.
c. 1R.* *June 22*, 770.
2R.* *July 2* [85] 256.
Report,* *July 12*, 1302.
*Con.** *July 17* [86] 215.
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l. Commons Amendts.* *July 23*, 787; *July 24*, 985.
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l. 1R.* *July 12*, 1286.
2R.* *July 17* [86] 189.
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1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1202.
2R.* *Feb. 26* [79] 1060.
Report,* *Mar. 21* [80] 1428.
*Con.** *Mar. 29* [81] 628.
3R.* *Apr. 2*, 927.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 2*, 918.
2R.* *May 3* [82] 566.
Report from Committee of Selection, *May 28* [83] 1411; *June 18* [84] 253.
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Report,* *July 12* [85] 1285.
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3R.* *July 19*, 410.
c. Lords Amendts.* *July 24* [86] 1037.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.

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1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1202.
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l. 1R.* *June 25*, 876.
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3R.* *Aug. 2*, 386.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1164.
2R.* *Feb. 22* [79] 766.
Committed, *Mar. 1*, 1349.
Report,* *Mar. 30* [81] 781.
3R.* *Apr. 5*, 1234.
c. 1R.* *Apr. 6*, 1391.
2R.* *May 16* [83] 309.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 59.
Con. *July 10*, 1103.
3R.* *July 13*, 1447.
l. Commons Amendts.* *July 16* [86] 3.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.

Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1164.
2R.* *Feb. 22* [79] 766.
Committed, *Mar. 1*, 1349.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6* [87] 742.

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2R.* *Feb. 22* [79] 766.
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c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1030.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1202.
2R.* *Mar. 26* [81] 306.
Report,* *Apr. 6*, 1389.
Con. *May 4* [82] 736.
3R.* *May 8*, 1059.
l. 1R.* *May 10*, 1183.
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l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.

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3R.* *Apr. 5*, 1237.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 6*, 1382.
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3R.* *June 19* [84] 411.
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Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 29* [81] 712; *Qs.* Mr. Macaleese, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 28* [83] 1518.

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Q. Mr. Tully; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 31* [87] 178.

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Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien, Dr. Tanner, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 6* [80] 218, 219, 220.

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Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July 2* [85] 279; *July 20* [86] 667.

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Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 16* [80] 1075.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 293.

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Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Long, *Feb. 6* [78] 717.
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Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. *A.* Douglas, *July 16* [86] 81.

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Celtic Language, Use of, in Irish Schools in place of English, *see* Irish Language.

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Chamberlain's, Mr., Visit to Dublin—Conduct of Trinity College Students, etc.
Qs. Mr. Daly, Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 2* [78] 446.

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Chute's, Mr. F. B., Estate, Castleislan —Purchase of Holdings, Completio of Sale
Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb 15* [79] 96.

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  - *Qs.* Mr. O'Kelly, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 23* [81] 198; *Os.* Mr. J. Redmond, *May 25* [83] 1316; Mr. G. W. Balfour, 1351.
- Coagh—Mails *via* Cookstown, proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. Doogan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 10* [85] 1122; *July 26* [86] 1333.
- Coal Mines—Empowering County and District Councils to work, New Ross District Council Resolution
  - *Qs.* Mr. Ffrench, Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 24* [83] 1123.
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    - Debate on the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, *July 31* [87] 253, 254; *Aug. 1*, 349, 354, 357, 358.
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  - *Q.* Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 23* [79] 939; *Q.* Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Feb. 26* [79] 1108.
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      - *Qs.* Mr. Flavin, Mr. Daly; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 22* [81] 56.
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    - Meath—Delay in Appointing
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    - Queen's Co. County Council Secretary—Notice Served on under Local Government Act, Insufficiency of Notice, alleged
      - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 29* [81] 715.
  - Surveyors—Action of the Local Government Board, Sealed Order, etc., *see* sub-heading Surveyors.
  - Wicklow County Council—Regulations as to the use of Printed Forms
    - *Q.* Mr. Carew; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 26* [81] 329.
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- County and District Councils—Chairmen and the Commission of the Peace
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Apr. 3* [81] 1076.
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- County Court Acts Administration—Traders' Grievances, Legislation, proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 16* [86] 86.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Engledew; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 13* [78] 1376.
- County Court Officers, Vote for, *Aug.* [87] 552.
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- Court House, Mullingar—Sub-Sheriff's Office marked "Private," etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 30* [81] 814.
- Creagh Estate, Tenant's Application for Purchase
  - *Q.* Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 23* [79] 940; *Mar. 23* [81] 194.

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Q. Mr. Talbot ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Mar. 29* [81] 710 ; *Os.* Sir C. Dilke, *July 13* [85] 1485, Sir M. W. Ridley, 1528.

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O. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 25* [83] 1346.

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Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 13* [85] 1469.

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Q. Mr. Austin ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 8* [78] 934.

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Q. Mr. W. Redmond ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 23* [81] 175 ; *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 27* [81] 444 ; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 5* [81] 1259.

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Dingle Pier, Condition of—Proposed Extension, etc.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 5* [78] 584.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug.* 3 [87] 652.

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Q. Mr. Power ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 289 ; *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 25* [84] 918 ; *Q.* Sir W. Foster ; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *July 26* [86] 1337.

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Q. Mr. M'Cartan ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *May 18* [83] 587.

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Q. Mr. B. Houston ; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1104.

Donegal, County, Constables Compensa tion—Delay in payment
Q. Mr. W. Johnston ; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *May 25* [83] 1304.

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O. Mr. W. Johnston, *May 24* [83 1185.

Donegal National Teachers' Association— Providing School Requisites
Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan ; *A.* Mr. G W. Balfour *Aug. 3* [87] 651.

Donegal, Prosecutions by Women Factor Inspectors—Dismissal of Case b Magistrates, Action of Residen Magistrate, etc.
Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan ; *A.* Sir M. W Ridley, *July 9* [85] 959.

Donegal Steamship Company—Subsid granted to Mr. Herdman
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill ; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *July 30* [87] 31.

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Q. Mr. Flynn ; *A.* Mr Atkinson, *Ap 2* [81] 950.

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Q. Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Fe 16* [79] 234.

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Q. Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfou *May 25* [83] 1302.

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Q. Mr. M'Cartan ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Ba four, *May 25* [83] 1304.

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Qs. Mr. W. Johnston ; *As.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *June 25* [84] 915 ; *July* [85] 283 ; *July 9*, 965.

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Q. Mr. W. Johnston ; *A.* Mr. Atki son, *Feb. 19* [79] 370.

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Q. Mr. D. Sullivan ; *A.* Mr. Atki son, *Mar. 27* [81] 448.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *July 5* [85] 641.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Apr. 30* [82] 286.

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Q. Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 26* [86] 1331.

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Q. Serjeant Hemphill; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 24* [83] 1116.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1335.

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Dundoran Mails—Delay in Day Mails from Dublin
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1334.

Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum—Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 557.

Dungannon School Estate Rents, Application for Fair Rent
Q. Mr. Doogan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 27* [79] 1221.

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Q. Mr. Doogan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 9* [80] 490.

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Q. Mr. T. D. Sullivan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 23* [86] 882.

Dwyer, Sylvester, Imprisonment—Length of Imprisonment, proposed Release, etc.
Qs. Mr. Flavin; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 288; *July 5*, 640.

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Qs. Mr. Field, Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Plunkett, *July 20* [86] 670.

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Qs. Mr. A. O'Connor, *Mar. 22* [81] 59; Sir M. H. Beach, 115; *Q.* Mr. J. Redmond, *Mar. 26*, 340.
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Q. Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 14* [83] 41.
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Qs. Mr. T. J. Healy; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 5* [78] 580; *May 28* [83] 1518.

Epileptics, Number of, in Workhouses—Return, *May 8* [82] 1000.

Errigal Truagh — Erecting Protestant National School on Site of Evicted Farm
Qs. Mr. Macaleese, Capt. Donelan; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 6* [81] 1410.

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Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 6* [78] 724.

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Fairymount National School —Non-payment of Salary to Assistant Teacher
Q. Mr. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 444.

Fermanagh Royal School Endowment—Establishing Intermediate School in Enniskillen out of Building Fund
Qs. Mr. Archdale; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 18* [83] 588; *May 25*, 1301.

Fermoy and Rosslare Railway, Construction of
Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 8* [80] 389; *Mar. 20*, 1321; *Q.* Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 16* [80] 1073; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1338.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 20* [80] 1318.
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Qs. Mr. T. Roche, Mr. Dillon, Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 20* [86] 664.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 20* [80] 1322.

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Q. Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Mar. 30* [81] 816.

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Q. Mr. Archdale; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Feb. 26* [79] 1107.

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Qs. Mr. M. Healy, Capt. Donelan; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 30* [81] 809; *Qs.* Capt. Donelan, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 2* [81] 952.

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Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 15* [79] 94.

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Q. Sir J. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 30* [87] 30.

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Q. Mr. M'Ghee; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 16* [86] 84.

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Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Atki son, *Feb. 19* [79] 387.

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Q. Mr. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Ritchi *June 26* [84] 1136—(*see* also title c Bill).

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury *July 16* [86] 80.

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Q. Colonel M'Calmont; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *May 28* [83] 1520.

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Q. Mr. M'Cartan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson *Feb. 20* [79] 584.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Macartney, *Feb. 22* [79] 779.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Atkinson *Feb. 5* [78] 585; *O.* Sir T. Esmonde *July 6* [85] 845.

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Qs. Mr. M. Healy; *As.* Mr Atkinson, *Mar. 30* [81] 816; *Apr.* 1074.

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O. Mr. T. M. Healy, *Feb. 7* [78] 86
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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 9* [78] 1048 ; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 20* [79] 565; *Q.* Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 23* [79] 926 ; *Q.* Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 5* [80] 30 ; *Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale, Capt. Donelan, Mr. T. M. Healy ; *As.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 377 ; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 9* [80] 480 ; *Q.* Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 29* [81] 686.

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Q Mr. Austin ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 643.

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Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, Mr. Hanbury, *July 24* [86] 1061.

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Q. Mr. W. Moore ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Aug. 6* [87] 787.

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Qs. Mr. S. Barry, Mr. A. J. Moore ; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 3* [82] 594.

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Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 3* [81] 1076.

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Q. Mr. W. Johnston ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 20* [80] 1323.

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Q. Mr. D. Sullivan ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 12* [80] 594 ; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 27* [81] 448 ; *Apr. 3* [81] 1070 ; *July 30* [87] 35.

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Q. Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 12* [78] 1240 ; *Qs.* Mr. Daly, Capt. Donelan ; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 15* [79] 101.

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Qs. Mr. Daly, Mr. S. MacNeill, Mr. P. O'Brien ; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 5* [78] 585 ; *Q.* Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 13* [78] 1375.

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Q. Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 291.

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Q. Mr. T. M. Healy ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 27* [86] 1521.

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Justice, Administration—Refusing Right of Appeal at Monaghan Petty Sessions, *see* title Monaghan.

Justices of the Peace—*for* collective heading, *see* title Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.

Kanturk Baronial Railway Guarantee

Q. Mr. Flynn ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 9* [78] 1057.

Kanturk and Macroom Land Commission Sittings

Q. Dr. Tanner ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 23* [81] 195 ; *Q.* Mr. Flynn ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 26* [81] 330.

Katesbridge Postal Arrangements

Q. Mr. S. Young ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 12* [85] 1323.

Kerry, *see* that title.

Kilbride Rifle Range—Number of Roman Catholic Officers and Men stationed at, Providing Roman Catholic Chaplains, etc.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 30* [87] 23.

Kildalkey Postal Arrangements—Midday Delivery of Letters proposed

Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 2* [87] 448.

Kildare—Postal Complaints

Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 6* [78] 723.

Kildysart Union Council—Mr. P. K. O'Halloran, Removal of

Q. Major Jameson ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 6* [80] 215.

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Kilkenny People—Arrest of Messrs. P. T. O'Keefe and E. T. Keane

Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 450.

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- Killedysert Creek—Application by Rural District Council for Widening and Deepening
  - *Q.* Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *May 22* [83] 940.
- Kilmore Pier Breakwater—Work Improperly Executed, alleged
  - *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 30* [87] 29.
- Kilrush Harbour (Proposed Provisional Order) Board of Trade Report, *July 3* [85] 392; *July 4*, 516.
- Kilrush and Foynes Boat Communication
  - *Q.* Mr. O'Keeffe; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 28* [84] 1346.
- Kilteevan Drum and Fife Band Demonstration—Police Interference
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 23* [86] 880.
- Kinsale Harbour Charges—Refusing to Grant Certificates of Relief to Urban Councils
  - *Q.* Dr. Commins; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 17* [83] 424.
- Knockaduff Electoral Division—Rate on Occupiers, Ratepayers' Memorial, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 3* [87] 652.
- Labourers' Cottages, *see* that title.
- Land Acts, *see* title Land Question, Ireland.
- Land Agents Acting as Land Commissioners—Case of Mr. Greene
  - *Q.* Major Jameson; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 9* [80] 491.
- Land Charges, Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 548; *Aug. 3*, 723.
- Land Commission—*for* collective heading, *see* that title.
- Land Purchase, *see* title Land Commission.
- Lansdowne's, Marquess of, Estate—Number of Ejectment Decrees granted
  - *Q.* Mr. T. J. Farrell; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 28* [84] 1345.
- Law Courts, *see* that title.
- Leahy Estate—Delay in dealing with Applications for Purchase
  - *Q.* Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 10* [82] 1256.
- Leitrim, *see* that title.
- Leyny National Schools, Erection of New Schools—Insufficiency of Government Grant, etc.
  - *Q.* Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 445.
- Licensing Questions—*for* collective heading, *see* title Liquor Traffic and Liquor Licensing Laws.
- Lifford County Court House—Action of the High Sheriff
  - *Qs.* Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 5* [78] 588; *Feb. 8*, 935.

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- Light Railways, Constrnction of—Mone voted by Parliament, Amoun available, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W Balfour, *July 5* [85] 640.
- Lighthousemen—Inequality of Pay, etc. Grievance
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *Mar. 9* [80] 489.
- Lights Board
  - Consultative Committee—North o Ireland representative
    - *Q.* Mr. Wolff; *A.* Mr. Ritchie *May 8* [82] 1101.
  - Reconstruction
    - *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr Atkinson, *Feb. 26* [79] 1104.
- Lights and Lighthouses, *see* title Lighthouses.
- Limavady Postmastership Appointment
  - *Q.* Mr. A. J. Moore; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 27* [86] 1523.
- Limerick, *see* that title.
- Lisdoonvarna—Number of prosecutions under Licensing Acts, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 22* [83] 938.
- Listowel, *see* that title.
- Loan Fund Board Report
  - Insufficiency of Powers to control operations of Loan Fund Societies—Legislation proposed
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 16* [86] 83.
  - Report, *June 14* [84] 7; *June 18*, 256.
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 7* [82] 883.
- Loan Fund Societies—Payment of Receivers, proposed Payment of £50 a year to Mr. Baird
  - *Q.* Mr. T. B. Curran; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 10* [82] 1257.
- Loans, *for* collective heading, *see* title Loans.
- Local Authorities' Contracts—Conditions, Wages, etc.—Return, *Apr. 9* [81] 1514; *July 31* [87] 158.
- Local Expenditure—Increase in, since Passing of the Local Government Act
  - Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 24* [83] 1127.
- Local Government
  - Election Petition
    - Commissioners' Judgments—Return
      - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 288.
    - Publishing Notes of Evidence as Parliamentary Paper, etc.
      - *Q.* Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 19* [79] 386.
  - Electoral Areas, Poor Law Valuation, etc., Return, *Aug. 2* [87] 415.
  - Orders and Rules, *Aug. 7* [87] 900, 901.

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    - Areas of Change fixed by previous Orders, Empowering Board to Change — Killarney District Council Petition
      - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 2* [81] 951.
    - Return of Rules and Orders—Delay in issuing
      - *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 289; *Feb. 2*, 451; *July 20* [86] 666.
  - Population, Electorate, Poor Law Valuation, Returns, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 23* [86] 878.
  - Rate Allowances
    - *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 5* [78] 586.
  - Registers—Time allowed to Clerks of the Peace for Collecting and Printing Notices of Objections
    - *Q.* Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 23* [79] 938.
- Local Government Act, 1898
  - Prosecutions for Voting when disqualified—Return
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 9* [85] 964.
  - Registration—Orders and Rules with Index, *Aug. 7* [87] 900, 901.
  - Relief to Ratepayers—Purchase of holdings by Tenants
    - *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 23* [79] 939.
- Local Government Board
  - Annual Report, *Aug. 6* [87] 746, 764.
    - *Q.* Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 18* [83] 591.
  - Officers' Retirement Regulations
    - *Q.* Mr. Tully; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 80* [87] 33.
  - Public Health Charges, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Procedure of Councils Order—Laying Draft of Alteration upon the Table
    - *Q.* Mr. Clancy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 644.
  - Working of the Local Government Act—Charges of Extravagance, Arbitrary Administration, etc.
    - Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 24* [83] 1127—(*for* details, *see* title Local Government Board).
- Local Government Officials
  - Claims for Compensation under Act of 1898
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 1* [78] 285; *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 18* [83] 588.
  - Emoluments, etc.—Return
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 286; *Q.* Mr. Carew; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 26* [81] 329.

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- Local Government Officials—*cont.*
  - Salaries, Increase in since Passing of the Local Government Act, etc.
    - Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 24* [83] 1127.
  - Surveyors, *see* that sub-heading.
- Local Taxation
  - *for* collective heading, *see* that title.
- Locomotives, Use of, on Public Roads—Legislation, proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 10* [85] 1124; *July 19* [86] 476.
- Londonderry, *see* that title.
- Longford, *see* that title.
- Lord Lieutenant, Aides-de-Camp to—Regimental Training
  - *Q.* Col. Welby; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 28* [84] 1325.
- Lord Lieutenant's Household, Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 541.
- Lords of Appeal in Ordinary, Constitution of, *see* title Lords of Appeal.
- Lough Corrib Drainage Works—Complaints by Millowners, Amount expended on Works, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Pinkerton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 29* [81] 712.
- Louth County, Fair Rent Appeals—Date of Sitting
  - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 29* [81] 713.
- Lunacy
  - Grant-in-aid withheld by the Treasury
    - *Q.* Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 13* [78] 1376; *Qs.* Sir J. Haslett, Mr. W. Redmond, Sir T. Esmonde; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Apr. 30* [82] 285; *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 27* [86] 1521.
  - Report with Appendices, *Aug. 2* [87] 389, 414.
- Lunatic Asylums—*for* collective heading, *see* Lunatic Asylums.
- Lunatic Asylums Board—Supplementary Estimate
  - *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 27* [86] 1520.
- Lurgan Post Office—New Building, Site, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. M'Cartan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 15* [79] 94.
- Maamtrasna Murderers — Number of Prisoners still in Custody
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 15* [80] 932.
- Mafeking Relief Celebration Disturbances at Belfast, *see* title Belfast.
- Magistrates and Justices of the Peace—*for* collective heading, *see* that title.

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Mails—*for* collective heading, *see* title Mails, *also* Post Office—Irish Questions.

Malicious Injuries, Grants for—Including Details in future Judicial Statistics
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 27* [86] 1521.

Market Tolls—Alterations under Local Government Act
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 19* [80] 1198.

Marlborough Street, Dublin, Training College, *see* title Dublin.

Marriages, Births, and Deaths—Annual Report of Registrar-General, *July 31* [87] 144, 158.

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Medical Officers, *see* title Dispensaries, Ireland.

Medical Officers of Health, Alteration of Tenure of Office—New Sanitary Order
Q. Mr. Hogan; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 10* [85] 1122.

Medical and Sanitary Officers holding Positions as Aldermen and County Councillors.
Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 15* [80] 939.

Meetings—Public Meetings, *see* sub-heading Proclaimed Meetings, also names of Places.

Mias Tiernan, Procuring for National Museum, proposed
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 9* [85] 962.

Military Lands and County Down—Belfast Water Supply
Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13* [85] 1461.

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Mitchelstown and Fermoy Railway—Appointment of Directors for the Baronies of Condons, Clongibbons, and Fermoy
Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 1* [82] 427.

Mitchelstown Union Magistracy—Public Inconvenience caused by want of Magistrate
Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 7* [87] 944.

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Monigold Postman—Dismissal of John Brien
Q. Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 11* [82] 1377.

Monitors, *see* title Education—Irish Questions.

Mountmellick Disturbances, Action of the Police—Guardians' Resolution
Q. Mr. Crean; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 25* [83] 1303.

Mountjoy Station, Closing
Q. Mr. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 16* [79] 230; *May 25* [83] 1300.

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Muldowney, Convict—Remission of Sentence, proposed
Qs. Mr. J. Roche, Mr. Dillon, Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 20* [86] 664.

Mullingar District Lunatic Asylum, Inquiry into Death of Reilly from Ill-treatment — Exclusion of the Press
Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 19* [80] 1197.

Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, Meeting at Cork—Encouraging Dairy Industry, etc.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *July 6* [85] 797.

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Murphy, Constable F., Death of, in Lurgan Workhouse Hospital
Q. Mr S. Young; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 26* [81] 327; *Q.* Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 22* [83] 941.

Muzzling Order, *see* title Dogs.

National Education, *see* title Education—Irish Questions.

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Report, *July 25* [86] 1162; *July 26* 1268.
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Nationalists and the Government, *see* sub-heading Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department—Appointment of Mr. Gill.

New Quay Water Supply, Condition of
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 25* [84] 916.

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Newbridge United League Meeting—Proclaimed Meetings, etc.
References to in Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 25* [83] 1312, 1348, 1363.
Cost of Police Force, etc.
Q. Mr. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 17* [83] 424.

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Newry Board of Guardians, Case of John Hogan—Laying Report on the Table
Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 22* [83] 940.

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British Museum—handing over Irish Papers to County Councils proposed
Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Flavin, Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 10* [85] 1126.
Kilkenny People, *see* that sub-heading.

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Q. Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 8* [78] 932.

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- Nursing—*cont.*
  - Shillelagh Union, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Trained Nurses in Workhouses—Return, *May 8* [82] 1000.
- O'Brien, Mr. M.—Attendance at Belfast Land Commission Sittings
  - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 16* [79] 234.
- Ogilby's Estate—Raising Rent on Tenants' Improvements
  - *Q.* Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 22* [79] 818.
- Omagh New Post Office—Plans, Tenders, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Murnaghan; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 16* [79] 230; *May 28* [83] 1519.
- Orange Demonstrations
  - Marching through Irish Street on July 12, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Johnston; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 283; *July 9*, 965.
  - Post Office Employees taking part in
    - *Q.* Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 24* [86] 1063; *Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 6* [87] 786.
  - (*see also* names of Places.)
- Ordnance Surveys—Kerry 25-in. scale Map, Issue for Sale
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Long, *Apr. 3* [81] 1070.
- Orpen Estate, Sale of—Refusal to sell to Tenants
  - *Qs.* Mr. Flavin, Capt. Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 29* [85] 81.
- "Paddy the Wad," Release of—Length of Imprisonment, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 640.
- Parcel Post Route—Stranraer and Portadown
  - *Q.* Mr. Moore; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 9* [78] 1054.
- Parcels Postmen's Grievances
  - *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 11* [82] 1377; *Aug. 7* [87] 942.
- Passenger Steamship Service, *see* sub-heading, Steamship Service.
- Pauper Children—Boarding out, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 8* [78] 932.
  - Return, *May 8* [82] 1000.
- Pauper Lunatics in Belfast—Additional Accommodation, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Wolff; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 5* [81] 1272.
- Paupers, Deportation, etc., *see* title Paupers—Irish Paupers.
- Pawnbrokers—Return, *June 14* [84] 7; *June 18*, 258.
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  - Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, *July 31* [87] 253, 254; *Aug. 1*, 349, 354, 357, 358.

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- Peace Preservation Act—*cont.*
  - Monaghan County Council Resolution, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 12* [78] 1241.
- Petty Sessions
  - Clerks — Council of the Associated Petty Sessions Clerks and the Dogs Regulation Bill
    - *Q.* Mr. M'Cartan; *A.* Mr. Long, *Mar. 25* [83] 1295.
  - Expenses of Prosecutions—Irish Constabulary Defraying
    - *Q.* Mr. W. Moore; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 24* [83] 1120.
- Pharmacy Acts—Orders in Council, *Feb. 27* [79] 1201; *Mar. 1*, 1350.
- Phœnix Park, *see* title Dublin.
- Piers and Harbours, *see* that title.
- Plan of Campaign—Debate on the Evicted Tenants (Ireland) Bill, *Feb. 21* [79] 705.
- Police, *see* titles Constabulary, Dublin, and sub-heading English Police.
- Police Cells in Belfast—Death of J. Thompson
  - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 12* [78] 1241.
- Poor Law
  - Administration—Returns, *May 8* [82] 1000; *July 10* [85] 1095, 1106.
  - Expenditure—Dispensary Rules, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. J. P. Farrell, Mr. Daly; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 8* [78] 929.
  - Dispensary Doctors, *see* title Dispensaries.
  - Grants to Unions
    - *Q.* Mr. M'Cartan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 27* [79] 1222.
  - Medical Officer acting as Alderman, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 6* [81] 1411.
  - Officers' Salaries
    - *Q.* Mr. Hammond; *A.* Dr. Ambrose, *Feb. 13* [78] 1375.
- Poor Law Hospitals—Inspection by Lay Inspectors
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 281.
- Poor Law Union Schools—Teachers' Fees, etc., *see* title National School Teachers.
- Poor Rate
  - Collectors in Ulster—Refusal to accept part payment of Rates
    - *Q.* Mr. Archdale; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 28* [84] 1343.
  - Deduction from Tithe Rent-charge—Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill, *Feb. 22* [79] 831.
  - Deductions—Rights of Tenants, Inserting Clause in Local Government (Ireland) Amendment Bill
    - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 26* [86] 1340.

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- Small Tenants, Inability to pay—Levying Rates on Landlords, proposed
  - *Q.* Maj. Jameson ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 6* [80] 214.
- Waterford Voters, *see* that sub-heading.
- (*see also* title Local Taxation.)

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Portaferry, Night Police Visit
- *Q.* Mr. Macaleese ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 19* [80] 1194.

Post Office Questions—*for* collective heading, *see* Post Office—Irish Questions.

Post Office Savings Banks—Applications to London for Withdrawals
- *Q.* Mr. Hayden ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 22* [79] 812.

Potato Cultivation—Blight, etc.
- Experiments for discovering Remedy
  - *Q.* Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *July 5* [85] 645.
- Spraying, Appointment of Inspectors in Limerick, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 445.
- Sullivan's, Mr., Experiments with Electrical Conductors
  - *Qs.* Mr. Austin, Mr. W. Johnston ; *As.* Mr. Plunkett, *July 3* [85] 414 ; *Q.* Mr. Austin ; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *July 26* [86] 1340.

Prisoners, *see* sub-headings, names of Prisoners.

Prisons—*for* collective heading, *see* Prisons.

Private Bill Legislation
- *Q.* Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 27* [81] 452.
- Resolution (Serjeant Hemphill), *Apr. 3* [81] 1153.

Private Bills—Number relating to Localities in Ireland
- *Q.* Mr. H. Lewis ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 3* [87] 657.

Probate Duty Grant—Distribution of the Grant to Poor Law Unions, delay in
- *Q.* Mr. Tully ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Feb. 1* [78] 292.

Proclaimed Meetings — United Irish League Organisation, etc.
- Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 25* [83] 1308.
- (*see also* names of places — Newmarket, Roscommon, etc.)

Protestant Association Lectures at Belfast—Ex-monk Widdows
- *Q.* Mr. S. Young ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 29* [81] 714.

Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891—Treasury Minute, *Feb. 6* [78] 685, 697.

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Public Health Charges—Fixing Area of Charge, Local Government Board Policy, etc.
- *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 12* [78] 1243 ; *Q.* Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1104 ; *Q.* Mr. Blakiston-Houston ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1104.
- Public Health Bill, *May 8* [82] 1108 ; *May 22* [83] 881.
- References to in Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 24* [83] 1138, 1151.

Public House Licences, New Licences—Annual Return, proposed
- *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy ; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 23* [86] 879 ; *July 26*, 1337.
- (*see also* title Liquor Traffic and Liquor Licensing Laws.)

Public Libraries Bill
- Monteagle of Brandon's, Lord, Amendment, *Mar. 23* [81] 153.

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Public Works
- Ancient Monuments Invested in Board of Public Works
  - *Q.* Serjeant Hemphill ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 16* [79] 231.
- Annual Report of Commissioners, with Appendices, *Aug. 2* [87] 390, 414.
- Assistant Surveyor of Buildings, *see* sub-heading Surveyors.
- Loans for Public Libraries and the Construction of Fishery Piers and Harbours—Rate of Interest, etc.
  - *Q.* Dr. Tanner ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 6* [87] 788.
  - (*see also* title Loans.)

Public Works Office—Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 547.

Public Works and Buildings—Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 527.

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- Belfast, Cork, and Galway, *see* those titles.
- Vote for, *Aug. 2* [87] 557.

Queen's County County Council Secretary—Notice served on, under Section 115 of the Local Government Act, Insufficiency of Notice
- *Q.* Mr. M. Healy ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 29* [81] 715.

Queen's Gap, Galway—Infringement of Fisheries Act, Alteration of Gap, proposed
- *Q.* Mr. Pinkerton ; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Mar. 27* [81] 451.

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  - Petitions, *Mar. 6* [80] 199; *Mar. 13*, 72 *Mar. 20*, 1301; *May 1* [82] 409; *May* 499; *May 4*, 746; *May 7*, 870; *May* [83] 570; *May 21* 719; *May 25*, 1284.

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  - 2R.* *Feb. 26* [79] 1042.
  - Committed, *Mar. 5* [80] 3.
  - Report from Committee of Selection, *May 11* [82] 1355; *May 14* [83] 5.
  - Report,* *May 25* 1225.
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  - 3R.* *June 18* [84] 251.
- *c.* 1R.* *June 19*, 425.
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- *l.* Commons Amendts.* *July 26*, 1267; *July 30* [87] 5.
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l. 1R.* *July 3*, 362.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 5.
Committed, *July 16*, 7.
Report from Committee of Selection, *July 19*, 413; *July 23*, 788.
Report,* *July 24*, 985.
*Com.** and Report,* *July 26*, 1268.

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l. *Com.** and Report,* *July 26* [86] 1268.
3R.* *July 27*, 1457.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 16* [83] 310.
2R.* *June 18* [84] 270.
Report,* *July 2* [85] 257.
c. *Con.** *July 3*, 390.
3R.* *July 4*, 515.
l. 1R.* *July 5*, 569.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 5.
Committed to a Committee of the whole House, *July 16*, 7.
*Com.** and Report,* *July 17*, 190.
3R.* *July 19*, 412.
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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 17* [83] 386.
2R., *June 18* [84] 270.
Report,* *June 25*, 891.
3R.* *June 26*, 1109.
l. 1R.* *June 28*, 1267.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 5.
Committed to a Committee of the Whole House, *July 16*, 7.
*Com.** and Report,* *July 17*, 190.
3R.* *July 19*, 412.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 17* [83] 387.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *July 6* [85] 771.
*Con.** *July 9*, 938.
3R.* *July 10*, 1104.
l. 1R.* *July 10*, 1081.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 5.
Committed to a Committee of the whole House, *July 17* [86] 190.
Com. and Report,* *July 26*, 1268.
3R.* *July 27*, 1457.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 18* [83] 566.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 58.
3R.* *July 2*, 256.
l. 1R.* *July 3*, 362.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 5.
Committed to a Committee of the whole House, *July 16* [86] 7.
*Com.** and Report,* *July 17*, 190.
3R.* *July 19*, 412.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 21* [83] 718.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *July 6*, 771.
*Con.** *July 9* [85] 938.
3R.* *July 10*, 1104.
l. 1R.* *July 10*, 1081.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
l. Committed, *July 17* [86] 190.
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Report,* *July 24* [86] 985.
*Com.** and Report, *July 26*, 1268.
3R.* *July 27*, 1457.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 2.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 22* [83] 920.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 59.
Con. *July 2*, 256.
3R.* *July 3*, 390.
l. 1R.* *July 5*, 569.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
Committed to a Committee of the whole House, *July 16* [86] 7.
c. *Com.* *July 27* [86] 1457.
Report,* *July 30* [87] 7.
3R.* *July 31*, 143.
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2R., *Apr. 26* [82] 2.
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Con. *May 11*, 1357.
3R.* *May 14* [83] 21.
l. 1R.* *May 15*, 151.
2R.* *June 21* [84] 574.
Com. and Report,* *June 25*, 877.
3R.* *June 26*, 1028.
Royal Assent, *July 10* [85] 1077.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill
c. 1R.* *Mar. 27* [81] 428.
2R.* *Aug. 3*, 1050.
Report,* *May 10* [82] 1228.
Con. *May 11*, 1357.
3R.* *May 14* [83] 21.
l. 1R.* *May 15*, 151.
2R.* *June 21* [84] 574.
Com. *June 25*, 877.
Report,* *June 26*, 1028.
3R.* *June 28*, 1266.
c. Lords Amendts.* *July 3* [85] 390.
l. Royal Assent, *July 10*, 1077.

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c. 1R.* *May 18* [83] 567.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 59.
Con. *July 2*, 256.
3R.* *July 3*, 390.
l. 2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
Com. and Report,* *July 19*, 412.
3R.* *July 20*, 587.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Ireland) (No. 4) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 28* [83] 1480.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 59.
Con. *July 2*, 256.

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l. 1R.* *July 5*, 569.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
Com. *July 24*, 987.
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3R.* *July 27*, 1457.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 741.

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c. R.* *May 8* [82] 1059.
2R.* *May 21* [83] 717.
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3R.* *June 29* [85] 4.
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c. 1R.* *May 16* [83] 309.
2R.* *June 18* [84] 270.
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3R.* *June 26*, 1109.
l. 1R.* *June 28*, 1267.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
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Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) (Ireland) (No. 1) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 18* [83] 567.
2R.* *June 18* [84] 270.
Report,* *June 25*, 890.
3R.* *June 26*, 1109.
l. 1R.* *June 28*, 1267.
Report,* *June 29* [85] 59.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
Com. and Report,* *July 19*, 412.
3R.* *July 20*, 587.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) (Ireland) (No. 2 Bill)
c. 1R* *May 28* [83] 1480.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 422.
Con. *July 2* [85] 256.
3R.* *July 3*, 390.
l. 1R.* *July 5*, 569.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 6.
Com. and Report,* *July 19*, 412.
3R.* *July 20*, 587.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill
c. 1R.* *May 15* [83] 223.
2R.* *May 28*, 1479.
Report,* *June 22* [84] 767.
3R.* *June 25*, 890.

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l. 1R.* *June 25*, 877.
2R.* *June 26*, 1029.
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*Com.** and Report,* *July 16* [86] 5.
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1R.* *Mar. 2* [79] 1539.
c. 2R., *Apr. 6* [81] 1498.
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c. 1R.* *Mar. 27* [81] 457.
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Q. Mr. C. Williams; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *July 26* [86] 1317.
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    - *Q.* Maj. Jameson: *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 6* [80] 214.
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2R.* *Feb. 20* [79] 502.
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3R.* *Apr. 5* 1234.
c. 1R.* *Apr. 6*, 1390.
2R.* *May 2* [82] 498.
Report,* *May 10*, 1229.
Con. * *May 18* [83] 565.
3R.* *May 23*, 1013.
l. Commons Amendts., *May 25*, 1225 ; *May 28*, 1409.
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2R.* *June 14* [84] 3.
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1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1207.
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c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1033.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1207.
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3R.* *Aug. 2* [87] 385.
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1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1208.
2R., *Mar. 1* [79] 1407.
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3R.* *May 28*, 1478.
l. 1R.* *May 28*, 1411.
2R.* *June 22* [84] 738.
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3R.* *July 24*, 986.
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2R.* *July 12*, 1288.
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3R.* *July 10*, 1104.
l. 1R.* *July 12*, 1287.
2R.* *July 19* [86] 412.
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Report,* *May 3* [82] 565.
3R.* *May 10*, 1183.
c. 1R.* *May 11*, 1159.
2R.* *May 22* [83] 919.
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*Con.** *July 16* [86] 53.
3R.* *July 19*, 450.
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Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.

London (Southwark) Provisional Order Bill
c. 1R.* *June 15* [84] 132.
Report,* *July 6* [85] 771.
*Con.** *July 9*, 938.
3R.* *July 10*, 1104.
l. 1R.* *July 12*, 1287.
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London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (Abandonment) Bill
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Report,* *July 18* [86] 341.
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  - Guns to be supplied to New Batteries of Field Artillery, *Feb. 16* [79] 290.
  - Strengthening and Improving Organisation of the Regular and Auxiliary Forces, *Feb. 15* [79] 153.
  - Uniforms—Necessity for Change in Fighting Dress of Troops, *Feb. 15* [79] 156.
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    - Sunday Trawling, Free Church Presbytery of Lewis Resolutions, *Feb. 15* [79] 88.
  - Fishermen's Dwellings in the Island of Lewis, Erecting, *Feb. 15* [79] 87.

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- Fishery Board Report—Date of Issue, *Mar. 27* [81] 447.
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- Local Government Accounts, Publication of, *Mar. 1* [79] 1448.
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- Turbine Principle—Torpedo Boats, etc.
  - Goschen's, Mr., Statement, *July 17* [86] 243.
- Uniforms—Tape Measurements Irritations—Want of Uniformity, etc.
  - *O.* Mr. G. Bowles, *Mar. 8* [80] 416.
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- Victualling Yards, Manufacturing Accounts, *Mar. 19* [80] 1173.
  - (*see also* title Deptford.)
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  - *O.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 27* [79] 1285.
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  - *O.* Adm. Field, *Feb. 26* [79] 1157.
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  - *Os.* Adm. Field, *Mar. 2* [79] 1571; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1575.
- Wei-hai-wei, Naval Expenditure, *see* China.
- Whales, Col., and the Peckham Roman Catholic Disturbance
  - *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *June 18* [84] 293.
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  - *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *May 3* [82] 583; *Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. Macartney, *May 7* [82] 878; *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 12* [85] 1313.

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Australasian Waters—Floating Trade—£60,300, *Com., Mar. 8* [80] 462; *Rep.* Mar. 9*, 513; *Mar. 12*, 696.
Educational Services — £92,300, *Com., Mar. 8* [80] 935; *Rep.* Mar. 9*, 516.
Estimates presented with Explanation of Differences, *Feb. 9* [78] 1041.
First Lord of the Admiralty's Statement, *Feb. 26* [79] 1111, 1168
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First Lord's Statement, *July 17* [86] 244.
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Medical Establishments and Services—£208,800, *Com., Mar. 8* [80] 433; *Rep.* Mar. 9*, 515.
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Miscellaneous Effective Services — £271,200, *Com., Mar. 8* [80] 452; *Rep.* Mar. 9*, 516.
Pensions — Civil Pensions — £343,500, *Com., Mar. 8* [80] 462; *Rep.* Mar. 9*, 517.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1163.
2R.* *Feb. 19* [79] 341.
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Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 1* [79] 1450.

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Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 24* [86] 1063.

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Q. Mr. Kilbride; *A*, Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 17* [83] 424.

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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 742.

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*Con.** *June 14* [84] 2.
3R.* *June 18*, 269.
l. Commons Amendts.* *June 19*, 412; *June 21*, 573.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Feb. 23* [79] 910.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

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  - *Qs.* Mr. Hogan; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Mar. 1* [79] 1424; *Mar. 5* [80] 34.
- Boundaries, Enlargement of, proposed—Incorporation of Neighbouring Islands
  - *Qs.* Mr. Hogan; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *June 26* [84] 1129; *July 10* [85] 1114.
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- Defence Scheme.
  - *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Aug. 6* [87] 774; *O.* Sir J. Colomb, 845.
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  - *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 16* [79] 224.
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- Attack of Native Tribes on British Officials
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- Fighting in Northern Nigeria—Objects of Military Expeditions, etc., Papers relating to
  - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 14* [83] 32.
- Foreign Jurisdiction Act—Order in Council, *Feb. 1* [78] 234.
- Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Slave Raiding, etc., Restrictions on
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- Spirits, Amount Imported in 1898 and 1899—Duties paid on Stocks by Native Traders, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lawrence; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 23* [86] 867.

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- Offer of Guns for South Africa, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 8* [78] 913.

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  - Smith's, Mr. S., Protest and Debate following, *May 28* [83] 1525.
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    - *O.* Mr. J. Burns, *July 13* (85 1504.
  - Railway Servants
    - Accidents other than train accidents—Return, *May 14* [83] 23 *May 21*, 721.

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Coroners' Inquests, Number held from 1895 to 1899—Applications for Board of Trade Representatives, etc.
Q. Mr. Channing; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 28* [83] 1509.

Manchester Couplings Accident
Q. Mr. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 27* [81] 442.

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Q. Mr. J. Burns; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 5* [81] 1267.

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Report of Royal Commission, *Jan. 30* [78] 49, 46; *Feb. 1*, 233.

Wimbledon Station—Number of Accidents
Q. Mr. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 25* [83] 1297.

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Board of Trade communication with the Great Western Railway
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 26* (81) 322.

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Q. Sir F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 29* (81) 700.

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Q. Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *June 21* [84], 632.

Aldershot Government Railway Siding—Erection of Roof, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Jeffreys; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 378; *Q.* Mr. Jeffreys; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 25* [84], 902.

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Bye Laws—New Code, Conference between Railway Companies and London County Council proposed
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 12* [85] 1317.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 23* [86] 873.

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Qs. Sir F. Flannery, Sir W. Foster; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 19* [80] 1186.

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Crops damaged by Sparks from Engines, *see* Crops, Sparks, also Compensation for Damage to Crops Bill.

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Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; *A.* Mr. Long, *Feb. 23* [79] 932.

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Great Northern Railway—Third-class fare between Hornsey and King's Cross more than first-class
Q. Mr. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 26* [86] 1321.

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Q. Mr. Stephens; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 26* [86] 13, 1321.

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Q. Mr. Butcher; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 2* [81] 939.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Plunkett, *Feb. 23* [79] 942; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 1* [79] 1451.

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Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 5* [80] 44; *Mar. 8*, 388.

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Qs. Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 26* [86] 1339; *July 31* [87] 180.

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Belfast and County Down Railway Company Steamers—Passenger Certificates
Q. Mr. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 14* [83] 41.

Belfast and Northern Counties Railway—Encroachment on Slob to Seaward, &c.
Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 1* [82] 429.

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Q. Mr. Crilly; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 7* [87] 944.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 3* [87] 650.

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Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 16* [79] 229.

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Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 2* [85] 279.

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Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 23* [81] 188.

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Q. Mr. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *June 26* [84] 1136.

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Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 5* [80] 44.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 640.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 16* [86] 80.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 19* [86] 478.

Mitchelstown and Fermoy Railway—Appointment of Directors for the baronies of Condons, Clongibbons, and Fermoy
Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 1* [82] 427.

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Qs. Mr. Murnaghan; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 16* [79] 230; *May 25* [83] 1300.

Sligo and Northern Counties—Running Goods Wagons with Passenger Trains, Delays, etc.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 23* [86] 882.

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Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 26* [86] 1339.

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Qs. Mr. Archdale, Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 15* [83] 245.

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Waterford and Limerick Railway—Dismissal of Employés
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, *Feb. 5* [78] 583.

Waterford-Rosslare Line—Cork—Fermoy Construction, etc.
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 8* [80] 389; *Qs.* Mr. Power, Capt. Donelan, Mr. T. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 16*, 1073; *Qs.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 20*, 1321; *May 28* [83] 1517; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 26* [86] 1338; *Qs.* Mr. M. Healy, Capt. Donelan, Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 2* [87] 449.

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Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *May 3* [82] 582.

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Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 6* [78] 721.

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Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Apr. 3* [81] 1069.

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Qs. Sir W. Foster; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 6* [78] 719; *Mar. 23* [81] 178.

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Q. Mr. Coghill, *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 4* [82] 764.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 640.

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Qs. Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 23* [79] 1020: *As.* Mr. Ritchie, 1023.

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Qs. Mr. Buchanan: *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 13* [80] 787; *Aug. 2* [87] 441.

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Q. Mr. Malcolm ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 12* [80] 590.
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Q. Mr. Woods ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *June 14* [84] 14.
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Q. Mr. Weir : *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 20* [79] 580.
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Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 15* [79] 86.
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Q. Mr. Jeffreys ; *A.* Sir R. Finlay, *Aug. 3* [87] 647.
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Q. Sir J. Brunner ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 1* [79], 1441.
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Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 15* [79], 85 ; *Q.* Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 6* [85], 784.
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Q. Mr, Monckton ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 23* [79] 932.
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Qs. Mr. Woods ; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 8* [82] 1095 ; *May 22* (83) 935.
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Q. Mr. Tomlinson ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 6* [87] 781.
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Q. Mr. Dalziel ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 26* [79] 1097.

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Q. Mr. Johnson-Ferguson ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 10* [85] 1121.
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Q. Mr. Dalziel ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 7* [87] 939.
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Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 16* [80] 1071.
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Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 15* [83] 241.
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Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 23* [81] 179.
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Q. Mr. Lloyd-George ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 31* [87] 172.
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Q. Mr. Maddison ; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, *Feb. 5* [78] 582.
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- South Africa—Settling of Soldiers after the War, *July 12* [85] 1311.
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    - Underwood & Sons, alias Hood & Moore, etc., *Mar. 22* [81] 37.
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  - Army Commissions, Examination in September—Embodied Battalions, etc., *Mar. 16* [80] 1099; *May 22* [83] 929; *May 28*, 1568; *July 2* [85] 269; *July 3*, 402; *July 13*, 1457.
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Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *June 18* [84] 295; *June 28*, 1345.
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Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 286.

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Q. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *June 25* [84] 920.
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ale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Ireland) Bill

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ale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (No. 2) Bill

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2R., *May 9* [80] 517.
Com. Mar. 12, 696; *June 20* [84] 570.

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ale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill

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    - *Q.* Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. A. Balfour, *Mar. 1* [79] 1452.

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Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 13* [80] 738; *Mar. 23* [81] 186.
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Os. Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 23* [79] 1020; Mr. Ritchie, 1023.
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  Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 1* [79] 1448.

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  Report, *May 22* [83] 859, 924.
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Local Taxation—Annual Return, *Aug. 2* [87] 412.

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  Fee Grant, *see* that sub-heading.
  Return, *May 4* [82] 748; *May 7*, 867; *July 30* [87] 7.

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  Q. Mr. W. Moore; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 15* [83] 243.

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  Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 16* [80] 1071.

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  O. Capt. Sinclair, *Feb. 23* [79] 1031.

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  References to in Debate in Com. of Supply, *July 6* [85] 802, 810, 819, 821, 829, 832, 834.

Moray Firth, Trawling in, *see* title Moray Firth.

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  Sixth Annual Report of Commissioners and Trustees of Board of Manufactures, *Apr. 26* [82] 7; *Apr. 30*, 250.
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Old Slaines, Migration of Fishing Population for want of Fishery Harbour
  Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 19* [86] 1191; *O.* Mr. Buchanan, *Mar. 20* [80] 1348; *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 30* [81] 807.

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  Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 8* [80] 390.

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  Os. Dr. Farquharson, Mr. J. P. Williams, Mr. Allan, *June 19* [84] 498, 500.

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  Henderson, L.—Offer of Reward for Information leading to Arrest, Mr. Law's Claim
    Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Apr. 9* [81] 1524.
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    Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 30* [81] 804.

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  Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Mar. 20* [80] 1317; *O.* Mr. Weir, *July 6* [85] 838.

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  Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. Austin; *As.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 6* [85] 788.

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  Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Feb. 19* [79] 382; *Mar. 6* [80] 214.

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  Q. Mr. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 3* [87] 657.

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  Q. Mr. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 7* [87] 939.

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  Q. Mr. C. Corbett; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Feb. 8* [78] 923.
  Debate in Com. of Supply, *July 6* [85] 884.
  Kilmalcolm Public School—Refusal of School Board to allow Use of surplus Accommodation, etc.
    Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *May 28* [83] 1516.

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Os. Mr. Weir, Mr. Hanbury, *May 11* [82] 1441, 1443.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
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- *Q.* Mr. A. C. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 3* [82] 577.

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- *Os.* Sir H. Vincent, *July 27* [86] 1574; Col. Welby, 1603.

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- *Q.* Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 10* [82] 1247.

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- *Os.* Mr. Bowles, Mr. Hanbury, *June 15* [84] 190, 192.

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- *Q.* Mr. C. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 7* [87] 930.

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- *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 12* [78] 1235; *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 1* [82] 421.
- References to, in Debate on the Estimates, *Mar. 8* [80] 449.
- Publication of Report—Communications between Sweden and Great Britain, etc.
  - *Qs.* Capt. Sinclair; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 6* [85] 782.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 7* [87] 930.

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- References to in Debate in Com. of Supply, *July 6* [85] 854, 863, 866.

North Sea Powers—International Agreement as to the Administration of Fishery Laws, etc.
- References to in Debate in Com. of Supply, *July 6* [85] 842, 847, 862, 866.

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- *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Aug. 7* [87] 930.

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- *Qs.* Mr. H. Foster, Mr. J. Lowther, *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 26* [82] 15.

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  - Report and Evidence taken before Select Committee on Sea Fisheries in 1893, Ordered to be referred to Select Committee, *May 23* [83] 1034.
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  - *Q.* Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Apr. 26* [82] 16.

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- Able-bodied Seamen
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    - References to, in Debate in Committee of Supply, *Feb. 23* [79] 1007, 1029; *Mar. 2*, 1607.
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- Advance Notes—Prohibition in United States
  - *Q.* Mr. Runciman; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 12* [80] 592.
- Agreements—Foreign Crews engaged in British Ports, Inability to understand Articles of Agreement, alleged
  - *Q.* Mr. Havelock Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 19* [79] 379; *O.* Mr. H. Wilson, *Mar. 2* [79] 1612.
  - References to, in Debate in Com. of Supply, *Feb. 23* [79] 1017, 1027.
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    - *Q.* Mr. C. M'Arthur; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 1* [79] 1442.
    - References to, in Debate in Com. of Supply, *Feb. 23* [79] 1019, 1025.
- "Britannia," S.S., Discharge of Crew abroad — Unseaworthy Condition of Ship, alleged
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- British Seamen, Decrease in Numbers—Naval Reserve, etc.
  - *O.* Mr. H. Wilson, *Feb. 27* [79] 1264.
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- Crew Accommodation—Lascars on P. and O. Steamers, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Havelock Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 12* [78] 1238; *Q.* Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 22* [79] 806; *Os.* Mr. H. Wilson, *Feb. 23* [79] 1003; *Mar. 2*, 1608; Mr. Ritchie, 1027; *Q.* Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar. 1* [79] 1444; *Os.* Mr. H. Wilson, *Aug. 6* [87] 880; Mr. Ritchie, 888.
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Q. Mr. Warr; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Apr. 6* [81] 1397.

Rundle's, Gen., Force—Standing Condition of Troops, etc., *see* that sub-heading.

Traction Engines, Use of

O. Mr. L. Sinclair, *Feb. 19* [79] 408; *Q.* Mr. L. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 26*, 1085; *Q.* Mr. Warr; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Apr. 6* [81] 1397.

Wagons

Colonial Offers, Australian Colony

Q. Capt. Morton; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 19* [79] 368.

Unfit for Use

Q. Mr. Bainbridge; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 6* [78] 700.

Transport Service, *see* that title.

Transvaal

British Indians expelled on Outbreak of Hostilities, Forcible Deportation to India alleged

Qs. Sir M. Bhownaggree; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 20* [79] 560; *Feb. 26*, 1094.

South African War—*cont.*

Transvaal—*cont.*

Independence of—Petition for Recognition, etc., *Apr. 26* [82] 7.

Miners, Return of—Sir A. Milner's warning, Representatives of Capitalists and Miners returning to Johannesburg, etc.

Qs. Mr S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *June 28* [84] 1323; *June 29* [85] 64.

Property, *see* that sub-heading.

Treasure, Shipment of, to France

Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 4* [82] 752.

War Preparations previous to Jameson Raid—Boer Delegates carrying off Papers to Europe

Q. Mr. Brigg; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Aug. 6* [87] 768.

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Wool exported in German Vessels—Allowing British Steamers to carry Wool tendered by Neutral Shippers

Q. Sir F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 18* [83] 575.

Tugela Engagement, *see* sub-heading Colenso Battle.

Typhoid Fever, *see* sub-heading Enteric

Uitlanders and Citizens of Cape Colony and Natal, Number of, serving with British Forces

Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 20* [79] 560.

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Debate on the Address, *Jan. 30* [78] 5, 71; *Jan. 31*, 164; *Feb. 1*, 295; *Feb. 2*, 452; *Feb. 5*, 590; *Feb. 6*, 731.

O. Earl of Portsmouth, *May 4* [82] 713.

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Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 19* [86] 458.

Usages of War—Boer Abuse of White Flag, *see* sub-heading White Flag, etc.

Vaal Krantz Despatches

Q. Mr. Coghill; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1088.

Van der Valt—Colesberg Martial Law Case

Q. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 9* [85] 948.

Veterinary Department

Civilian Surgeons, Number of

Q. Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 26* [79] 1086.

Horses, Loss of, owing to insufficient Number of Surgeons—Employment of Retired Surgeons, etc.

Q. Capt. Jessel; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 6* [81] 1397.

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Villebois, Col., Lord Methuen's Monument to
Q. Sir H. Howorth; *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *May 3* [82] 576.

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Volunteers, *see* that title.

War Correspondents—Censorship of War News, *see* that sub-heading.

War Funds, *see* that title.

War News
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Q. Mr. H. S. Foster; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Feb. 2* [78] 440.
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Q. Mr. Whitmore; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 1* [79] 268.
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Q. Mr. Billson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 22* [79] 784.
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Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 15* [79] 73.
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Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 2* [78] 438.

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War Preparations by the Transvaal, *see* sub-headings Boer Arms and Transvaal.

War Tax—Property in the South African Republics, *see* sub-heading Property.

Warren's, Sir C., Appointment
O. Sir C. Dilke, *July 27* [86] 1545.

Wauchope, Gen., Relics of, Restoring to Relatives—Mr. Baumann's Offer
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 3* [85] 395.

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Wepener Operations, Casualties—Non-publication of Regimental Numbers
Q. Mr. Archdale; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 10* [82] 1236.

West Indies—Offer of Contingents
Q. Mr. Caldwell; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Mar. 15* [80] 908.

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Return from South Africa—"Jingo" Ovations, etc.
O. Mr. E. Robertson, *July 27* [86] 1613.
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Qs. Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 29* [81] 688; *Apr. 2* [81] 935.

White Flag Treachery by the Boers
Qs. Mr. Platt-Higgins, Mr. Lucas-Shadwell; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 16* [80] 1062.

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Capture of British Cavalry, Lord Roberts' telegram
Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 14* [83] 24.
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Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Mar. 29* [81] 682.

Wire Cutters for the Troops—Number sent out to South Africa, etc.
Q. Mr. Nussey; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 1* [78] 264; *Q.* Mr. S. Montagu; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 1* [79] 1417; *Q.* Mr. Nussey; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 13* [80] 727; *Qs.* Sir L. M'Iver, Gen. Russell; *As.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 22* [81] 31.

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Women and Children in Besieged Towns
Q. Mr. A. D. Thomas; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 27* [79] 1205.
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Convalescent Wounded — Number returned to the Front
Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 910.
Exeter Hospital—Offer to Wounded Soldiers
Q. Sir E. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 20* [80] 1305.
Heroism of the Wounded—Mr. Treves's Tribute
O. Dr. Farquharson, *Mar. 16* [80] 1079.
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"Wreck" of an Army at Bloemfontein
Os. Earl of Portsmouth, *May 4* [82] 713; Marquess of Lansdowne, 716.

Wynne's, Col., Field Order
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 1* [78] 266; *Mar. 29* [81] 687.

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Disaster at Lindley, *see* sub-heading Lindley.

Zululand, Invasion by the Boers, etc., *see* Zululand.

"South Australian"
Imprisonment of British Seamen by Orders of the British Consul, etc.
O. Mr. H. Wilson, *Aug. 6* [87] 884

"South Cambria"
Wages due to Men—Delay in paying to relatives
Q. Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 8* [82] 1097.

South Coast Fisheries
Trawling — Depredations by Foreign Trawlers, Representations to Foreign Governments, etc.
Qs. Sir C. Gull, Mr. G. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *June 19* [84] 444.

South Denes Volunteer Camp
Brownrigg, Col., Prohibiting Visits and Collections by Sisters of Nazareth
Qs. Dr. Tanner; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 19* [86] 458; *July 20*, 648; *July 24*, 1047.

South Down Militia
Volunteering for Garrison Duty, etc.
Q. Mr. W. Johnston; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 22* [79] 785.

South-Eastern Circuit
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Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Anstruther, *May 8* [82] 1099.
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South-Eastern Metropolitan Tramways Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 21* [79] 702.
1R.* *Feb. 22*, 774.
2R.* *Mar. 12* [80] 566.
Instruction to Committee (Mr. Lough), *Mar. 12*, 566.
Report, *May 11* [82] 1358.
*Con.** *May 21* [83] 717.
3R.* *May 24*, 1086
l. 1R.* *May 25*, 1224.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 410.
Report from Committee of Selection, *July 2* [85] 187.
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Report,* *July 9*, 894.
3R.* *July 19* [86] 410.
Lords Amendts.* *July 25*, 1161.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.

South-Eastern Railway Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Mar. 2* [79] 1510.
Committed, *Mar. 9* [80] 465.
Report from Committee of Selection, *May 4* [82] 706; *May 8*, 998; *May 15* [83] 151; *May 17*, 377.
3R.* *May 21* [83] 674.
c. 1R.* *May 22*, 921.
2R.* *June 15* [84] 131.
Report, *June 22*, 768.
3R.* *July 2* [85] 255.
l. Commons Amendts.* *July 3* [85] 362.
Royal Assent, *July 10*, 1078.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Feb. 23* [79] 910.
Committed, *Mar. 2* 1509.
Report from Committee of Selection, *May 4* [82] 706; *May 8*, 998; *May 15* [83] 151.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill—*cont.*
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 21* [84] 574.
3R.* *June 25*, 876.
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 892.
2R.* *July 16* [86] 53.
Report,* *July 24*, 1039.
*Con.** and 3R,* *Aug. 1* [87] 319.
l. Commons Amendts.* *Aug. 2*, 387; *Aug. 3*, 569.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

South-Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railways
Ludgate Hill Railway Station Improvement, Delay in carrying out
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Feb. 20* [79] 580.
Luggage—Excess Charges
Q. Sir C. Gull; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *June 18* [84] 290.
Workmen's Tickets—Limiting to Workmen in constant Daily Employment
Q. Mr, Lough; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *Mar 22* [81] 46.

South Essex Water Bill
l. 2R.* *Feb. 26* [79] 1042.
Committed, *Mar. 5* [80] 3.
Report from Committee of Selection, *Apr. 2* [81] 918; *Apr. 9*, 1501.
Report from Select Committee, *May 14* [83] 3.

South Essex Water Board Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1163, 1353.
2R.* *Feb. 16* [79] 195.
Committed, *Feb. 23*, 911.
Report from Committee of Selection *Apr. 2* [81] 918; *Apr. 9*, 1501; *Apr. 30* [82] 246.
Report from Select Committee, *May 14* [83] 3.

South Kensington Museum
Buckland Collection, *see* that title.
Loans to Schools, etc., in Wales during 1899
Q. Mr. H. Lewis; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *July 31* [87] 174.
Precaution against Fire—Erection of New Buildings
Q. Mr. Emmott; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, *Mar. 13* [80] 742.
Purchase of Objects of Art—Authority responsible for, etc.
Q. Sir H. Howorth; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Mar. 1* [79] 1437.
Victoria and Albert Museum, *see* that title.
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South Lancashire Tramways Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1212.
2R. *Mar. 2* [79] 1511.

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South Lancashire Tramways Bill—*cont.*
l. Motion for Instruction to Committee, (Mr. Lough) *Mar. 2*, 1513.
Report.* *May 8* [82] 1060.
*Con.** *May 16* [83] 309.
3R.* *May 24*, 1086.
l. 1R.* *May 25*, 1224.
2R.* *June 18* [84] 251.
Report from Committee of Selection, *July 5* [85] 568.
Report from Select Committee, *July 13*, 1425.
3R.* *July 30* [87] 5.
c. Lords Amendts.* *July 31*, 156
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 742.

South Metropolitan Gas Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R., *Mar. 1* [79] 1408.
Instruction to Committee, *Mar. 6* [80] 189.
Report* *May 24* [83] 1087.
*Con.** *June 14* [84] 3.
3R.* *June 18*, 269.
l. 1R.* *June 18*, 252.
2R.* *June 26*, 1027.
Report from Committee of Selection, *July 6* [85] 726.
Report from Select Committee, *July 16* [86] 2.
3R.* *July 23*, 786.
c. Lords Amendts.* *July 27*, 1495.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.
Petitions, *June 29* [85] 1 ; *July 2*, 186.

South Shields Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1163.
2R.* *Feb. 19* [79] 342.
Committed, *Feb. 26*, 1042 ; *May 14* [83] 4.
Report from Committee of Selection, *May 11* [82] 1355.
Report,* *June 19* [84] 410.
3R.* *June 26*, 1027.
c 1R.* *June 26*, 1111.
2R.* *July 9* [85] 937.
Report,* *July 17* [86] 216.
*Con.** *July 24*, 1038.
3R.* *July 27*, 1496.
l. Commons Amendts.* *July 27*, 1456.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 4.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Feb. 23* [79] 910.
Committed, *Mar. 2*, 1509.
Report from Committee of Selection, *Apr. 6* [81] 1381 ; *Apr. 9* 1502 ; *Apr. 30* [82] 247 ; *May 11*, 1353.
Report,* *May 18* [83] 529.
3R.* *May 25*, 1224.
c. 1R.* *May 28*, 1484.
2R.* *June 25* [81] 890.
Report,* *July 4* [85] 515.
Con., *July 10*, 1103.
3R.* *July 13*, 1447.
l. Commons Amendts.* *July 16* [86] 3 ; *July 19*, 411.
Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.
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South Wales Borderers Volunteers
Insubordination—Case of John Garland and Tom Phelps
Q. Mr. M'Kenna ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 2* [81] 934.

South Wales Electric Power Distribution Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R.* *Mar. 1* [79] 1407.
Report from Select Committee, *July 9* [85] 940.
*Con.** and 3R.* *July 16* [86] 41.
l. 1R.* *July 17*, 190.
2R.* *July 23*, 786.
Committed, *July 24*, 985.
Report from Committee of Selection, *July 24*, 987 ; *July 26*, 1267.
Report from Select Committee, *July 27*, 1449.
3R.* *July 31* [87] 142.
c. Lords Amendts.* *Aug. 3*, 620.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

Southall Schools
Expenditure on—Increased Accommodation, Cost per head per Child
Q. Mr. Spicer ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *June 28* [84] 1338.

Southampton
Customs House—Date of Commencement of new Building
Q. Sir B. Simeon ; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 30* [87] 29.

Southampton Harbour Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1163.
2R.* *Feb. 16* [79] 195.
Committed, *Feb. 23*, 912.
Report,* *Mar. 23* [81] 149.
3R.* *Apr. 2*, 917.
c. 1R.* *Apr. 3*, 1078.
2R.* *Apr. 27* [82] 111.
Report,* *May 10*, 1230;
*Con.**, *May 16* [83] 309.
3R.* *May 21*, 716.
l. Commons Amendts., *May 22*, 858.
Royal Assent, *May 25*, 1221.

Southport
St. Simon and St. Jude's School—Corporal Punishments
Q. Sir J. Brunner ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Feb. 19* [79] 377 ; *Feb. 22*, 805.

Southport Corporation Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R.* *Feb. 27* [79] 1185.
Report from Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, *July 5* [85] 614.
c. *Con.** and 3R.* *July 11* [85] 1229.
l. 1R.* *July 12*, 1286.
2R.* *July 19* [86] 410.
Report,* *July 26*, 1266.
3R.* *July 31* [87] 142.
c. Lords Amendts.* *Aug. 3*, 620.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

Southport Corporation Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Mar. 30* [81] 782.

Southport Extension and Tramways Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 355.
Report,* *Mar. 15* [80] 902.
Con., *Mar. 27*, 427.
3R.* *Mar. 30* [81] 784.
l. 1R.* *Mar. 30*, 782.
2R.* *Apr. 6*, 1382.
Committed, *Mar. 17* [83] 377.
Report,* *May 18*, 529.
3R.* *June 18* [84] 251.
c. Lords Amendts.* *June 25*, 889.
l. Royal Assent, *July 10* [85] 1077.

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 13* [78] 1357.
1R.* *Feb. 15* [79] 53.
2R.* *Apr. 9* [81] 1588.
Report,* *May 16* [83] 310.
*Con.** *May 28*, 1478.
3R.* *June 14* [84] 130.
l. 1R.* *June 18*, 252.
2R.* *June 26*, 1027.
Report,* *July 30* [87] 5.
3R.* *Aug. 2*, 385.
c. Lords Amendts.* *Aug. 3*, 620.
l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 6*, 743.

Southport Water Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R.* *Feb. 21* [79] 701.
Report,* *Mar. 23* [81] 166.
*Con.** *Apr. 2*, 927.
3R.* *Apr. 5*, 1237.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 6*, 1382.
2R.* *May 3* [82] 566.
Report,* *May 25* [83] 1223.
3R.* *June 18* [84] 251.
Royal Assent, *June 25*, 873.

Southwark
Housing of the Working Classes—Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation [London] Bill, *July 16* [86] 49, 51.

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Souttar, Mr. R. [Dumfriesshire]
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Spain
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c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1036.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1213.
2R.* *Feb. 19* [79] 355.
Report,* *Mar. 21* [80] 1428.
*Con.** *Mar. 29* [81] 628.
3R.* *Apr. 2*, 927.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 2*, 918.
2R.* *Apr. 30* [82] 246.
Report,* *May 15* [83] 150.
3R.* *May 18*, 530.
c. Lords Amendts., *July 5* [85] 596; *July 12*, 1301.
l. Royal Assent, *July 30* [87] 3.

Spanish-American War
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Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 26* [79] 1093; *Mar. 1*, 1431.

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  - Motions by Private Members without notice, *May 23* [83] 1033.
- Anticipating Motion for Select Committee, *Apr. 30* [82] 358.
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  - Money Resolution in Committee—Naval Reserve Bill, *July 31* [87] 244.
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  - *Q.* Mr. H. P. Pease; *A.* Sir M. H. Beach, *Mar. 2* [79] 1530.

Supplemental War Loan
- Early Closing of the List of Subscriptions for the of Exchequer Bonds
  - *Q.* Mr. Cohen; *A.* Sir M. H. Beach, *Aug. 7* [87] 909.

Supplemental War Loan Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *July 31* [87] 184.
  - 2R., *Aug. 1*, 320.
  - *Com.* and Report,* *Aug. 2*, 560.
  - 3R., *Aug. 6*, 796.
- *l.* 1R.* 2R.* and 3R.* *Aug. 6*, 761.
  - Royal Assent, *Aug. 8*, 965.

Supplementary Budget Proposals
- Statement (Chancellor of the Exchequer), *July 30* [87] 52.

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- Army and Navy Estimates, *see* those titles.
- Business of the House
  - Additional Days
    - Motion (Mr. A. J. Balfour), *July 16* [86] 95.
  - Friday Sittings—Short Day Sitting
    - Motion (Mr. Duncombe), *Feb. 15* [79] 105.
  - New Estimates
    - *O.* Mr. G. Bowles, *July 16* [86] 102.
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    - Motion (Mr. A. J. Balfour) *Feb. 15* [79] 103.
- Civil Service and Revenue Departments Estimates
  - Additional Supplementary Estimate, *July 17* [86] 217.
  - Agriculture, Board of—£11,028, *Com.*, *June 22* [84] 805; *Rep.** *June 25*, 1021.
  - Appropriation Accounts, *Jan. 31* [78] 160; *May 28* [83] 1486.
  - Appropriations-in-aid, *see* that title.
  - Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain—£16,000, *Com.** *Aug. 2* [87] 527; *Rep.** *Aug. 3*, 694.
  - Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade—£5, *Com.** *Aug. 2* [87] 537; *Rep.** *Aug. 3*, 696.
  - Board of Trade—£133,561, *Com.** *Aug. 2* [87] 535; *Rep.** *Aug. 3*, 696.
  - British Museum and Natural History Museum—£86,280, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 179; *Rep.** *June 18*, 404.
  - Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum—£23,946, *Com.** *Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep.** *Apr. 30*, 389.
  - Chancellor of the Exchequer's Statement, *Mar. 5* [80] 63.
  - Charity Commission—£23,036, Vote Withdrawn, *May 11* [82] 1446; *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 820; *Rep.** *June 25*, 1021.
  - Circulation of the Estimates
    - *Q.* Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 13* [78] 1373.
  - Civil Contingencies—£4,191. *Com.** *Aug. 2* [87] 558; *Rep.** *Aug. 3*, 701.
  - Civil Service Commission—£25,774, *Com.*, *May 11* [82] 1446; *Rep.** *May 17* [83] 524.

[*cont.*

Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Colonial Office—£4,150, *Com.* Feb. 22* [79] 864; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1180; £32,250, *Com., July 25* [86] 1164; *Rep., Aug. 3* [87] 661.
Colonial Services, including Grants-in-Aid—£58,905, *Com., Mar. 2* [79] 1579; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 261; £256,955, *Com., June 15* [84] 245; *Rep.*, June 18*, 406; £200,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700.
Comptroller and Auditor-General—£38,691, *Com., May 11* [82] 1452; *Rep.* May 17* [83] 524.
County Courts—£19,925, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 51; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 388.
Customs Department—£488,500, *Com. May 11* [82] 1382; *Rep.* May 17* [83] 523.
Cyprus (Grant-in-Aid)—£1,000, *Com., June 15* [84] 245; *Rep.* June 18*, 406.
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings—£18,000, *Com.* Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 389.
Education—£5,585,099, *Com., June 14* [84] 20; *June 15*, 159; *Rep.* June 18*, 404.
Embassies and Missions Abroad—£255,384, *Com., June 15* [84] 211; *Rep.** 406.
Excesses—£10, *Rep.* Mar. 16* [80] 1145—Statement, *Mar. 7*, 266.
Foreign Office—£45,501, *Com., Aug. 2*, [87] 456; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 694.
Friendly Societies, Registry of—£5,197, *Com., May 11* [82] 1457.
Government Property, Contribution in lieu of, etc.—£12,000, *Com., Feb. 22* [79] 861; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1180; £226,403, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 99.
Harbours under Board of Trade—£2,243, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 89; *Rep., Apr. 30*, 391.
Home Office—£96,407, *Com., July 13* [85] 1475; *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 531; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 695.
House of Commons Offices—£14,896, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 531; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 695.
House of Lords Offices—£4,297, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 528; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 695.
Houses of Parliament Buildings—£22,000, *Com., Mar. 30* [81] 915; *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 521; *Rep.* Aug.* 3, 694.
Inland Revenue Buildings—£1,165,083, *Com., May 4* [82] 827.
Irish Votes
Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department—£63,245, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 543; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.

Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Irish Votes—*cont.*
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office—£1,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 543; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.
Chief Secretary's Office, etc.—£10,486, *Com., May 25* [83] 1307; *Rep.* May 28*, 1652.
County Court Officers, Magistrates, Expenses of Revision, etc.—£64,710, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 552; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 699.
Criminal Prosecutions, etc—£33,510, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 548; *Rep., Aug 3*, 699, 723.
Dublin Metropolitan Police—£56,150, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 553; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 699.
Education—£787,503, *Com., July 20* [86] 673; *Rep.* Aug 3* [87] 739.
Estimate of Sum required, *May 9* [82] 1148.
Endowed Schools Commissioners £515, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700.
Hospitals and Charities—£468, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 558; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 701.
Inland Revenue Department—£1,165,083, *Rep.* May 17* [83] 523.
Land Commission—£81,681, *Com., May 25* [83] 1375; *Rep.* May 28*, 1652.
Local Government Board—£32,339, *Com., May 24* [83] 1127; *Rep.* June 25* [84] 1023.
Local Taxation Account—£37,030, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 558; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 701.
Lord Lieutenant's Household—£2,811, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 541; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.
National Gallery—£1,079, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700.
Prisons—£74,443, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 699.
Public Record Office, etc.—£3,117, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 543; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.
Public Works and Buildings—£132,685, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 527; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 695.
Public Works Office—£20,682 *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 547; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.
Queen's Colleges—£2,300, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700, 733.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools—£54,767, *Com., July 20* [86] 771; *Rep.* Aug. 3* [87] 739.

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Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Irish Votes—*cont.*
Registrar General's Office — £8,814, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 547; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 698.
Royal Irish Constabulary— £752,408, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 553; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 699, 731.
Supreme Court of Judicature, etc. —£62,262, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 551; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 699.
Time allotted for discussing, etc.
Os. Mr. J. P. Farrell, Mr. S. MacNeill, Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 15* [79] 116, 117.
Valuation and Boundary Survey —£5, *Com.* Feb. 22* [79] 866; *Rep.* Feb 26*, 1180; £10,589, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 547; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 698.
Land Registry—£19,246; *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 48; *Rep., 30*, 387.
Law Officers' Department, etc.— £34, 694; *Com., Apr.* 26 [82] 20; *Rep.* Apr 30*, 387.
Local Government Board—£124,483, *Com. Aug. 2* [87] 510; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 694.
Local Loans Fund, Repayments— £23,327, *Com.* Mar. 2* [79] 1594; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 262.
London University—£5, *Com., June 15* [84] 211; *Rep.*, June 18*, 405.
Lunacy Commissioners, England — £9,778; *Com., May 11* [82] 1473; *June 22* [84] 833; *Rep.* June 25*, 1021.
Mercantile Marine Fund—£64,018, *Com.* Aug 2* [87] 535; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 696.
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions— £1,800, *Com. June 19* [84] 504; *Rep.* June 22*, 872.
Mint, Including Coinage—£67, *June 22* [84] 838; *Rep.* June 25*, 1022.
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances—£725, *Com., June 19* [84] 504; *Rep.* June 22*, 872.
Miscellaneous Expenses — £1,370, *Com.* June 19* [84] 504; *Rep.* June 22*, 872.
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings — £35,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 526; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 694.
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses — Grants-in-Aid of Expenses of Incorporated Law Societies — £22,689, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 31; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 387.
National Debt Office—£8,097, *Com.* June 22* [84] 839; *Rep., June 25*, 1022.
National Gallery — £8,374; *Com., June 15* [84] 190; *Rep.* June 18*, 405.
National Portrait Gallery—£2,520, *Com., June 15* [84] 190; *Rep.* June 18*, 405.

Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Paris Exhibition—£1,000, *Com.* June 19* [84] 504; *Rep.* June 22*, 872.
Peterhead Harbour—£18,000, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 96; *Aug. 2* [87] 527; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 694.
Police, England and Wales—£31,778, *Com.* Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 389.
Post Office—£5,243,605, *Com., Apr. 27* [82] 124; *May 4*, 838; *Rep., May 17* [83] 523.
Post Office Packet Service— £563,000,015 *Com., May 11* [82] 1402; *Rep.* May 17*, 524.
Post Office Telegraphs—£2,220,330, *Com., May 11* [82] 1438; *Rep.* May 17* [83] 524.
Prisons, England and the Colonies— £358,964, *Com.* Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 389.
Privy Council Office, £300, *Com., Feb 22* [79] 864; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1180.
Privy Council Office—£7,340, *Com. June 22* [84] 803; *Rep.* June 25*, 1021.
Procedure in Committee of Supply— Discussing on First Vote matters which ought to be discussed when Speaker is in the chair—Chairman's Ruling, *Mar. 13* [80] 782, 783.
Public Buildings—£40,000, *Com., Feb. 22* [79] 861; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1179.
Public Buildings—Sundry Buildings in Great Britain not provided for in other Votes—£188,000, *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 54; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 391.
Public Works Loan Commission— £15, *Com., June 22* [84] 840; *Rep.* June 25*, 1022.
Railways—£35,487, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 527; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 695.
Rates on Government Property — £226,403, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 527; *Rep.*, 3R., 694, 701.
Record Office—£12,838, *Com., June 22* [84] 839; *Rep.* June 25*, 1022.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain — £121,623, *Com.* Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 389.
Registrar General's Office, England— £23,702; *Com., June 22* [84] 840; *Rep.* June 25*, 1022.
Registry of Friendly Societies— £5,197, *Rep., May 17* [83] 524.
Revenue Buildings—£20,000, *Com., Feb. 22* [79] 859; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1179—£176,000 * *Com., Apr. 26* [82] 53; *Rep., Apr. 30*, 390.
Royal Palaces and Marlborough House—£29,000, *Com., Mar. 30* [81] 905; *Rep.* Apr. 2*, 1043.
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens— £73,000, *Com., Mar. 30* [81] 909; *Rep.* Apr. 2*, 1044.

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Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies—£60,686, *Com.*, *Mar. 2* [79] 1590; *Rep.*, *Mar. 6* [80] 262.
Science and Art Departments—£3,000, *Com.* Feb. 22* [79] 867; *Mar. 2*, 1599; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 262.
Scientific Investigations — £35,724, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 190; *Rep.* June 18*, 405
Scotch Votes
Crofters' Commission — £3,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 548; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 698.
Education—£690,318, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700.
Fishery Board — £10,649. *Com.*, *July 6* [85] 839; *Rep.* July 10*. 1225.
Law Charges and Courts of Law —£56,652, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 547; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 698.
Local Government Board—£8,508, *Com.*, *July 6* [85] 883; *Aug. 2* [87] 541; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 697.
Lunacy Commission — £3,221, *Com.* July 6* [85] 879; *Rep.* July 10*, 1226.
National Gallery—£2,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 557; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 700.
Prisons—£1,400, *Com.*, *Feb. 22* [79] 866; *Mar. 2*, 1594; £50, 984, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 548; *Rep.* Aug. 3*, 698.
Register House, Edinburgh—£29, 237, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 547, *Rep.**, *Aug. 3*, 698.
Registrar General of Births, etc.—£2,743, *Com.*, *July 6* [85] 879; *Rep.* July 10*, 1226.
Secretary's Office—£8,095, *Com. July 6* [85] 801; *Rep.* July 10*, 1265.
Secret Services—£25,000, *Com.* Aug. 2* [87] 538; *Rep.*, *Aug. 3*, 696, 715.
Stationery and Printing—£20,000, *Com.* Feb. 22* [79] 866; *Rep.* Feb. 26*, 1180—£350,060, *Com.*, *June 22* [84] 841; *Rep.* June 25*, 1022.
Subsidies to Telegraph Companies—£14,350, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 247; *Rep.* June 18*, 406.
Superannuation, Compassionate Allowances, etc., awarded by the Treasury—£284,058, *Com.* June 19* [84] 504; *Rep.* June 22*, 872.
Superannuation and Retired Allowances—Appendix to Estimate, *Apr. 2* [81] 930.
Supplementary Estimates, *Feb. 12* [78] 1217; *Feb. 14*, 1465.
Supreme Court of Judicature — £185,490; *Com.*, *Apr. 26* [82] 43; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 387.

Supply—*cont.*
Civil Service and Revenue Department Estimates—*cont.*
Survey of the United Kingdom—£127,609, *Com.*, *Apr. 26* [82] 59; *Rep.* Apr. 30*, 391.
Telegraph Companies Subsidies—£10,000, *Com.*, *Mar. 2* [79] 1589; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 261.
Temporary Commission—£500, *Com.* Mar. 2* [79] 1594; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 262 — £9,452, *Com.* June 19* [84] 504; *Rep**. *June 22*, 872.
Treasury Chest Fund—£2,847, *Com.*, *Mar. 2* [79] 1590; *Rep.* Mar. 6* [80] 261.
Treasury and Subordinate Departments—£51,299, *Com.*, *June 22* [84] 795; *Rep.* June 25*, 1021.
Uganda and Central and East African Protectorates, grant - in - aid—£162,500, *Com.*, *Feb. 22* [79] 867; *Feb. 2*, 1576—£167,186, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 244; *Rep.* June 18*, 406.
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales—£67,500, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 190; *Rep.* June 18*, 405.
Vote on Account—£16,626,000, *Com*, *Feb. 23* [79] 944; *Rep.*, *Mar. 2*, 1601.
Estimate, *Feb. 20* [79] 554.
Taking Vote on account before circulating the Estimates
Q. Mr. Caldwell; *A.* The Speaker, *Feb. 22* [79] 821.
Wallace Collection — £4,967, *Com.*, *June 15* [84] 190; *Rep.**, *June 18*, 405.
Woods, Forests and Land Revenues of the Crown—£13,439, *Com.*, *June 22* [84] 845; *Aug. 2* [87] 537; *Rep.*, *Aug. 3*, 696, 707.
Works and Public Buildings Office—£33,040; *Com.*, *Aug. 2* [87] 537; *Rep.*, *Aug. 3*, 696, 710.
[for subjects discussed in Com. of Supply, *see* their titles.

Supreme Court
see Law Courts.

Surgeons
South African War—Civil Surgeons, etc., *see* South African War—Hospital and Medical Arrangements.

Surrey Regiment
Cancelling Embarkation Orders
Q. Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 29* [85] 70.

Survey of the United Kingdom
Vote for, *Apr. 26* [82] 59.

Surveyor of Taxes
Deficiency in Numbers—Formation of New Districts, etc.
Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 4* [82] 827.

Surveyors, Ireland
(*see* Ireland.)

Surveys
Admiralty Surveys—Hydrographer's Report Presented, *June 18* [84] 276; *June 21*, 275.

Sussex, County of
Light Railway Order, *June 29* [85] 4, 62.

Sutton Schools
Provision for Children on the Dissolution of the Schools
Q. Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 13* [85] 1465.

Sutton-Howth Tramway
Laying Tramway along the side of the Road instead of on the Road, etc.
Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *June 29* [85] 78; *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 19* [86] 477; *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 23* [86] 881.

Sutton to Censure Railway
Method of Construction, etc.
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 26* [86] 1339.

Swansea Harbour
Pilotage Byelaw, Order in Council, *Feb. 1* [78] 234.

Swatow
Trade Report, *June 18* [84] 254.

Swaziland
Mgucesi, Chief, Murder of, etc.
Q. Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 18* [83] 579.
Unsettled State of
Q. Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Mar. 17* [83] 395.

Sweden
Sea Fisheries Conference, *see* Sea Fisheries.
Trade Reports, *Apr. 30* [82] 219; *July 27* [86] 1458.

Swindon, Wilts
Charter of Incorporation, *Jan. 30* [78] 52, 66.

Swine Fever
Reduction in Number of Outbreaks, etc.
O. Mr. Long, *June 22* [84] 811.
Restrictions on Movements of Swine, etc.
O. Mr. Strachey, *June 22* [84] 805; *Q.* Mr. Strachey; *A.* Mr. A. Douglas, *Aug. 3* [87] 648.

Switzerland
British Commercial Agent, Appointment
Q. Sir E. Gourley; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 26* [79] 1095.
Military System
O. Sir J. Fergusson, *Feb. 12* [78] 1297.
Marksmanship - Short Range System, etc.
O. Lord Tweedmouth, *Feb. 15* [79] 51; *Mar. 1*, 1367, 1369.
Rifle Range System, Inquiry into, by British Officers
O. Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 12* [80] 613.
Report
Q. Mr. Seely; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 13* [78] 1362.
Telegraph Money Orders, Agreement with Great Britain—Additional Articles presented, *Mar. 10* [82] 1185, 1232.
Trade Report, *June 18* [84] 254.

Taff Vale Railway Bill
l. 1R*. *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Feb. 22* [79] 766.
Committed, *Mar. 1*, 1349.
Report from Committee of Selection, *Apr. 2* [81] 918; *Apr. 9*, 1501; *Apr. 30* [82] 246.
Committed, *May 3* [82] 566.
Report,* *May 8*, 997.
3R.* *May 14* [83] 4.
c. 1R.* *May 15*, 227.
2R.* *May 28*, 1479.
Report,* *June 22* [84] 768.
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3R.* *June 29* [85] 57.
l. Royal Assent, *July 10*, 1078.

Tafilet
Reported French Occupation
Q. Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 1* [79] 1431.

Taganrog
Trade Report, *June 18* [84] 254.

"Tagus," Mail Steamer
Delay in Delivery of West Indian Mails
Q. Mr. B. Hoare; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 2* [79] 1528.

Taku
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Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. [Oxford University]
Anti-British Demonstrations in Saxony, *Mar. 15* [80] 918.
Cadet Corps in Public Schools—Inexpensive Uniforms, *May 15* [83] 236.
Census (Great Britain) Bill, *com. Mar. 15* [80] 1006, 1007.
Education—Training Colleges, etc., *June 14* [84] 69,

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Elementary Education Bill, 3R., *July 31* [87] 196.

Female Factory Inspectors, Diminution in Number of Visits, etc., *Feb. 22* [79] 799.

Fruit Preserving Industry, Overtime Employment of Women and Children, etc., *July 13* [85] 1509.

Jam Factories — Overtime Labour of Women and Children, *Aug. 2* [87] 431.

Local Government Board—Non-Appointment of Chaplains, etc., *Aug. 2* [87] 511.

London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) Bill, 2R., *May 23* [83] 1056.

Religious Ministration in Workhouses, Appointment of Chaplains, *Feb. 27* [79] 1218; *Aug. 2* [87] 510.

  Thorne and Beverley Workhouses, *Aug. 3* [87] 646.

Rockhall and Rochford House—Religious Instruction for Children, Non-appointment of Church of England Chaplains, etc., *July 17* [86] 232.

South African War—Chaplains with the Troops, Denominations, etc., *July 13* [85] 1455.

Sunday labour—Factory and Workshops Bill Proposal, *Mar. 29* [81] 710.

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Boycotting, Case of,
  Q. Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 446.

Extra Police
  Q. Mr. Shee; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 13* [78] 1378.

United Irish League—Poster removed by Police
  Qs. Mr. Power, Capt Donelan; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 30* [87] 32.

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Disposal of diseased Cattle Carcases
  Q. Mr. Hardy; *A.* Mr. Long, *May 7* [82] 881.

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Sat first in Parliament after the death of his Father, *July 5* [85] 561.

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Agricultural Holdings Bill, *con.*, *July 10* [85] 1218.

Ancient Monuments Protection Bill, com., *Mar. 22* [81] 148.

Army
  Civil Surgeons—Supposed Pledge of Secrecy, *July 27* [86] 1502.

  Enteric Fever — Reported cases in Cork, Fermoy, etc., on return of the men from Salisbury Plain Manœuvres, *July 30* [87] 21, 22.

  Lee-Metford Rifle, Comparison with Foreign Rifles, etc., *Mar. 5* [80] 26.

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Army—*cont.*
  Medical Service, *Mar. 13* [80] 819.
    Report for 1898—Delay in Issuing, *Mar. 15* [80] 912.

    Retired Medical Officers Recalled to Active Service, *July 27* [86] 1503.

Ashanti Rising—Despatching War Stores to Cape Coast Castle, Sir F. Hodgson's position at Coomassie, *May 22* [83] 931.

Ballygowan Postmaster taking part in Orange Procession, *Aug. 6* [87] 789, 790.

Belfast—Orange Party Riots, *Mar. 5* [80] 49; *Mar. 6*, 218.

Carbolic Acid, Fatalities from—Scheduling of Poisons, etc., *Apr. 30* [82] 281

Casey, John, Death of, in Mountjoy Prison — Verdict of Coroner's Jury, *Mar. 6* [80] 219.

Census (Great Britain) Bill, com. *Mar. 19* [80] 1283.

Ceylon
  Crime, Increase in—Sir W. Ridgeway's Investigations, *May 21* [83] 731.

  Plumbago Curing Sheds, Supervision of, etc., *May 21* [83] 732.

  Waste Lands legislation — Inquiry, *May 18* [83] 580.

China — Anti-Foreign Rising, British Forces—Co-operation with German Troops, German Emperor's Speech at Bremerhaven, *July 30* [87] 18.

Cork
  County Gaol—Death of A. Cull, *May 21* [83] 747.

  Extra Police in, *May 18* [83] 590.

  Post Office—New Buildings, *July 30* [87] 35.

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Q. Mr. M'Ghee; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 26* [81] 325.

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Q. Mr. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Anstruther, *Apr. 9* [81] 1527.

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Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 5* [78] 579.

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Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 4* [82] 762

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Q. Sir C. Gull; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *June 29* [85] 78.

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Q. Sir J. Leng; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 5* [80] 40.

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Q. Mr. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 22* [79] 812.

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Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 1* [79] 1447.

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Q. Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 1* [78] 288; *Q.* Dr. Tanner; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 5* [80] 46; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *June 29* [85] 80; *Q.* Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 3* [85] 280.

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Q. Mr. H, C. Richards; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 24* [83] 1107.

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l Royal Assent, *Aug. 8*, 966.

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Q. Mr. J. Walton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 8* [80] 384; *Os.* Mr. J. Walton, *Mar. 30* [81] 849, 863; Mr. Buchanan, 874; Mr. Brodrick, 887; Sir E. Grey, 893; Sir C. Dilke, 900; *Q.* Col. Milward; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Apr. 3*, 1063.

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Q. Mr. Mendl; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 19* [80] 1177.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 27* [79] 1204.

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Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 11* [82] 1368.

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Qs Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 26* [79] 1093; *Mar. 1*, 1431.

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  - *Q.* Col. Dalbiac; *A.* Mr. J. Collings, *May 7* [82] 879; *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 31* [87 172.

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- Audit of Accounts, etc.
  - *Os.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 15* [84] 164; Sir J. Gorst, 172.
  - Elementary Education Bill, *June 21* [84] 669, 672, 677, 679, 680.
- Birmingham (King Edward the Sixth) Schools Bill — Representation on Governing Body, *May 22* [83] 906, 909, 911, 912, 913.

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Q. Mr. Gray ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Mar. 12* [80] 588.
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Q. Mr. C. Williams ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *July 26* [86] 1317.
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Q. Mr. Caldwell ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *July 20* [86] 658.
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Q. Mr. M. Healy ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Mar. 27* [81] 440.
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Q. Mr. S. Smith ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 24* [83] 1219.
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Os. Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 15* [84] 165 ; Mr. Yoxall, 166 ; Sir J. Gorst, 171.
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Q. Mr. Hedderwick ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Mar. 1* [79] 1437 ; *Q.* Mr Maddison ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Feb. 20* [79] 573.
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Q. Mr. Hedderwick ; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Aug. 3* [87] 642.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 6* [78] 730.

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O. Earl of Kimberley, *May 25* [83] 1270 ; *Q.* Mr. Warner ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13* [85] 1460 ; *O.* Earl Wemyss, *Aug. 3* [87] 586 ; *Q.* Sir H Vincent ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 27* [86] 1503.
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Airdrie Volunteers, Disbanding
O. Mr. J. Wilson, *Mar. 16* [80] 1142 ; *Q.* Mr. J. Wilson ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13* [85] 1458.
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Q. Mr. Colville ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 27* [82] 119.
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Q. Mr. Spicer ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *May 24* [83] 1095.
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Q. Mr. Harwood ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 5* [85] 624.
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Q. Mr. Bainbridge ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 6* [78] 705.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 380.
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Q. Capt. Sinclair ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 19* [80] 1179.
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Q. Mr. R. Cooke ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 580.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 380.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *May 28* [83] 1493.
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Q. Mr. L. Knowles ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 1* [79] 1422.
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Q. Mr. L. Knowles ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 12* [85] 1312.
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Q. Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. Macartney, *June 25* [84] 901.
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Q. Mr. Boscawen; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 15* [84] 148.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Aug. 7* [87] 918.
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Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 28* [84] 1327.
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Qs. Mr. Channing, Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 5* [85] 628.
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Q. Mr. Billson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 21* [84] 624.
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O. Marquess of Lansdowne, *Feb. 15* [79] 42.
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Q. Captain Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 23* [79] 926.
References to, in Debate on Committee of Supply, *Feb. 15* [79] 145, 147, 158, 160; *Feb. 19*, 398, 426.
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Q. Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 15* [83] 235.
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Wyndham's, Mr., Statement, *July 27* [86] 1532.
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Q. Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 21* [84] 618.
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Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 1* [82] 418.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 579.

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Os. Earl Spencer, Marquess of Lansdowne, *May 22* [83] 884, 885; *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 28* [84] 1327.
Refunding Billeting Expenses to Wiltshire Company, etc.
Q. Mr. Colston; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 29* [85] 71.
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Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 6* [87] 772.
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Q. Col. Dalbiac; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *June 21* [84] 622.
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Q. Mr. L. Morgan; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 13* [85] 1458.
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Q. Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 15* [83] 235.
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Q. Sir J. Kennaway; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 380.
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O. Sir H. Fletcher, *Mar. 16* [80] 1116.
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Telegraphists at Central Office, London — Granting Permission to attend Camps
Q. Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *June 29* [85] 74; *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 6* [85] 782.
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Q. Mr. Warr; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 22* [81] 35.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 5* [81] 1260.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 916.
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Q. Marquess of Lansdowne, *Mar. 1* [79] 1358.

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References to, in Debate on the Estimates, *Feb. 15* [79] 163; *Feb. 16*, 257.
Statements (Marquess of Lansdowne), *Feb. 12* [78] 1178, (Mr. Wyndham), 1267.
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O. Mr. Cawley, *Mar. 12* [80] 1657; *Q.* Mr. M'Crae; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 13* [80] 728.
References to, in Debate on the Estimates, *Mar. 16* [80] 1115, 1120, 1123, 1125.
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Q. Mr. Jerburgh; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 5* [81] 1260; *Q.* Mr. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 6*, 1399.
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Chaplains—Capitation Grant, etc.
Q. Sir B. Simeon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 25* [84] 901.
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Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Apr. 6* [81] 1400; *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Anstruther, *May 8* [82] 1089.
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Q. Capt. Jessel; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 19* [80] 1179.
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Q. Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 6* [78] 707; *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *May 1* [82] 415.
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Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1090.
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References to, in Debate on the Estimates, *Mar. 16* [80] 1116, 1123.
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Cyclist Volunteer Corps
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O. Mr. Wason, *Feb. 15* [79] 157.
Wyndham's, Mr., Statement, *Mar. 12* [80] 613.
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Os. Mr. S. Montagu, Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 16* [80] 1121.
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Q. Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 15* [83] 235.
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O. Sir J. Colomb, *Mar. 16* [80] 1131.

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Q. Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9* [85] 953.
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Qs. Sir J. Kennaway, Col. Pryce-Jones; *As.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 380, 381
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Q. Mr. Tomlinson; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Mar. 6* [80] 204.
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Wyndham's, Mr., Statement, *July 27* [86] 1531.
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Enlistment Regulations—Age Limit and Previous Service with the Regulars, etc.
Q. Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 1* [79] 1418.
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Q. Capt. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *May 24* [83] 1095.
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Garrison Duty—Offers of Services, etc.
Q. Mr. Seely; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 24* [86] 1046.
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Inniskilling Fusileers, *see* that title.
Inns of Court Rifle Volunteers—Permission to go to Winchester for Drill refused
Q. Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 9* [81] 1516.
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Q. Gen. Russell; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 380.
Ireland—Formation of Volunteer Corps
Qs. Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 5* [78] 564; *O.* Mr. J. P. Farrell, *Feb. 16* [79] 286; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 20* [86] 665; *Q.* Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 30* [87] 22.
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Q. Sir F. Evans; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20* [86] 648.
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Q. Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 575.

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Qs. Sir J. W. Maclure; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20* [86] 649; *July 26*, 1305.
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Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 23* [86] 860.
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Q. Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 24* [86] 1048.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Aug. 7* [87] 918.
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Q. Mr. C. J. Murray; *A.* Mr. Anstruther, *Apr. 9* [81] 1517.
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Q. Sir J. Kennaway; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 917.
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Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 13* [80] 727.
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Q. Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *June 19* [84] 437.
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Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *May 25* [83] 1292.
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Q. Mr. Yerburgh; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 27* [79] 1207; *Q.* Mr. Lucas-Shadwell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 3* [85] 400.
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Q. Mr. Boscawen; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 15* [84] 149; *Q.* Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 22* [84] 778.
Statement (Marquess of Lansdowne), *Feb. 12* [78] 1178.
Naval Volunteers—Mobile Defence of the Crafts, etc.
O. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 27* [79] 1285.
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Q. Mr. B. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Aug. 3* [87] 628.

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Q. Mr. H. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 5* [80] 33.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 381.
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O. Mr. Scott Montagu, *Mar. 16* [80] 1121.
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Q. Mr. Cornwallis; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 3* [81] 1058.
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Q. Sir J. Woodhouse; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 26* [84] 1123; *O.* Mr. B. Roberts, *Aug. 8* [87] 992.
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Q. Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 578.
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Q. Mr. Orr-Ewing; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 8* [80] 379.
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References to, in Debate on the Estimates, *Mar. 16* [80] 1119, 1126.
Old Age Pension Scheme
O. Mr. Drage, *Mar. 16* [80] 1127.
Orderly Room Sergeant holding Rank of Quarter-Master Sergeant — Camp Pay, etc.
Q. Mr. Price; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 26* [84] 1126.
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Q. Sir B. Simeon; *A.* Mr. Long, *Mar. 20* [80] 1309.
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Q. Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones; A. Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 26* [79] 1088.
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Q. Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 25* [84] 901; *Qs.* Col. Dalbiac, Col. Pryce-Jones; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 28*, 1326.
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- Pension Fund, Proposed—Scheme of Military Re-organisation
  - *Q.* Mr. Drage; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 19* [79] 368.
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  - *Q.* Capt. Jessel; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 20* [79] 568.
- Railway Conveyance to Rifle Ranges—Conveying free, proposed
  - *O.* Mr. J. Burns, *Feb. 15* [79] 170.
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  - Edis, Col., and the Inspector-General of Auxiliary Forces
    - *Os.* Earl of Dunraven, Marquess of Lansdowne, *Feb. 5* [78] 554. 556.
  - Obstacles placed in the way by the War Office of obtaining Recruits, alleged
    - *Q.* Mr. S. Smith; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 9* [78] 1046.
  - Special Army Order, Jan. 2nd, 1900
    - *Q.* Sir A. Rollit; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 1* [78] 274.
  - Statements (Marquess of Lansdowne), *Feb. 12* [78] 1177; (Mr. Wyndham) 1262.
- Regulations, etc., Proposed under Volunteers Bill, *see* sub-heading Active Service, etc.
- Reserve
  - Conditions of Eligibility
    - *Q.* Mr. F. W. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 22* [83] 929.
  - Formation of, proposed
    - *O.* Capt. Norton, *Feb. 16* [79] 258.
  - Limit—Admission of Old Volunteers qualifying as Marksmen
    - *Q.* Mr. F. W. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 15* [83] 234.
  - Number of Reserve Companies
    - *Q.* Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 580.
  - Statement (Marquess of Lansdowne), *Feb. 12* [78] 1179.
  - "Waiting Companies"—Period prior to calling up for Service—Army Order 29
    - *Q.* Mr. R. Cooke; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 6* [81] 1399.
- Return, *June 14* [84] 7; *June 18*, 255.
- Rifle Clubs and Rifles Ranges, *see* those titles.
- Royal Welsh Fusiliers
  - Officers entitled to wear the "Flash"
    - *Q.* Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13* [85] 1461.
  - Rifles, Supply of
    - *Q.* Mr. Howell; *A.* Wyndham, *July 13* [85] 1460.
- Salisbury Plain Camps, *see* Salisbury Plain.
- Separation Allowances—Married Volunteers receiving after seven days in Camp, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 15* [83] 236.

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- Sergeant-Majors, Granting Warrant Rank—Increase of Sergeant-Instructors, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 14* [83] 26.
- Shetland—Application for Permission to establish Local Force
  - *Q.* Sir L. Lyell; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 917.
- Shooting Regulations — Reduction of Qualification for Marksmen
  - *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 579.
- Somersetshire Corps—Failure to form Company—Number of Men unable to pass Test
  - *Qs.* Col. Wyndham-Murray, Mr. Hobhouse; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 5* [78] 571.
- South African War
  - Adjutants, Releasing for Active Service
    - *Q.* Mr. Galloway; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 15* [79] 70; *Q.* Mr. Cohen; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 1* [79] 1419.
  - Boots — Inferior Boots supplied by Messrs. Samuels
    - *Q.* Mr. Howell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 30* [81] 793.
  - British Indian Volunteers in Natal, Offer of Services free of Cost
    - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Feb. 20* [79] 559.
  - Calling up of additional Volunteers suggested, etc.
    - Debate (Lords), *Mar. 1* [79] 1355.
  - Casualties—Publication and Identification
    - *Q.* Mr. Thornton; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 5* [78] 572.
  - City Imperial Volunteers
    - Cyclist Corps Equipment
      - *Q.* Mr. Wason; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 5* [81] 1255.
    - Replacing Defective Rifle Sights
      - *Q.* Mr. Wason; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 29* [81] 686.
    - Report on Defective Rifles
      - *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 7* [82] 874.
  - Civil Service Volunteers
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      - *Q.* Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Feb. 6* [78] 707.
    - Paying and Keeping Open Situations
      - *Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Mar. 1* [82] 415.
    - (*see also* sub-heading Post Office.)
  - Duke of Edinburgh's Volunteer Rifles—Mr. Logan's Gift of Maxim Gun and Alleged Message
    - *Q.* Sir W. Lawson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 25* [84] 899.

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  - Equipment Expenses — Voluntary Subscriptions, etc.
    - References to, in Debate (Lords), *Mar. 1* [79] 1356, 1358, 1360.
  - Guns
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      - *Q.* Mr. Bainbridge ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 6* [78] 705.
    - Northumberland Volunteers — Armstrong's, Messrs., offer of Guns, etc.
      - *Q.* Mr. J. A. Pease ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 8* [78] 913.
      - Equipment—Application to the War Office to Equip Regiment with Maxim Guns, etc., alleged
        - *Q.* Mr. Bainbridge ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 6* [78] 705.
  - Invalided Volunteers, Treatment of, by the War Office
    - *O.* Mr. Seely, *July 27* [86] 1599.
  - Lancashire Fusiliers, Date of Embarkation
    - *Q.* Mr. L. Knowles ; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 12* [80] 575.
  - London Scottish Volunteers Equipment Grant towards Outfit, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. Weir ; *A.* Wyndham, *Feb. 6* [78] 706.
    - Tartan Kilts—Expenses, etc.
      - *Q.* Mr. Wason ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 16* [79] 220.
  - Medals of Deceased Soldiers, Forwarding to Next-of-kin
    - *Q.* Capt. Jessel ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 6* [81] 1396.
  - Medical Examination Statistics—Number rejected for bad teeth, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Weir ; *As.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 5* [80] 28 ; *Mar. 12*, 575.
  - Objections to the Enlistment of Volunteers for Foreign Service
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      - *Qs.* Mr. M'Crae, Mr. L. Knowles ; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 1* [78] 274 ; *Feb. 8*, 912 ; *Q.* Col. Milward ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 13*, 1362.
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  l. 1R.* *June 19*, 411.
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    Report from Select Committee, *July 23* [86] 785.
    3R.* *July 30* [87] 6.
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    1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1215.
    2R. *Feb. 19* [79] 355.
    Report from Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, *June 21* [84] 606.
    *Con.** and 3R.* *June 27* [84] 1205.
  l. 1R.* *June 28* [84] 1266.
    2R.* *July 5* [85] 567.
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    3R.* *July 27* [86] 1450.
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l. 1R.* *Mar. 30*, 782.
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l. Royal Assent, *May 25*, 1221.

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l. Commons Amendts.* *July 20*, 586.

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l. 1R.* *Apr. 9*, 1502.

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  - "South Cambria"—Delay in Payment of Wages to Relatives, *May 8* [82] 1097.
- South African War—Vote of Censure, *Feb. 6* [78] 798.
- Stornoway—Unsatisfactory Mail and Passenger Boat, Post Office Subsidy, etc., *May 4* [82] 844.
- Transports
  - Employment of British Seamen, Admiralty Regulations, *Feb. 22* [79] 778.
  - Houston Company—Contracts, *Feb. 19* [79] 360; *Feb. 27*, 1268.
  - Seamen—Foreign Seamen on British Transports, Transports conveying Stores, etc., to South Africa, *Mar. 30* [81] 789, 820, 827, 829.
- Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill, 2R., *Mar. 21* [80] 1421.

Wilson, Mr. J. W. [Worcestershire, N.]
- Budget—War Loan, etc., *Mar. 5* [80] 133.
- Sewage Disposal—Commission, Date of Report, *Apr. 3* [81] 1268.
- Water Gas, Use of—Recommendations of Departmental Committee, etc., *July 20* [86] 653, 654.

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  - *Q.* Mr. Colston; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 29* [85] 71.

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Qs. Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Dr. Farquharson; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 21* [84] 617.
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Q. Mr. Price; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *July 24* [86] 1055.
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Q. Mr. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 25* [83] 1297.

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Q. Mr. L. Knowles; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 9* [81] 1516.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 8* [82] 1106.

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Q. Mr. Engledew; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Mar. 8* [80] 384.

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c. 1R.* *Feb. 9* [78] 1064.

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Q. Sir R. Penrose-Fitzgerald; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 6* [85] 784; *July 10*, 1116; *Q.* Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13* [85] 1464.
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l. 1R.* *Feb. 12* [78] 1165.
2R.* *Feb. 23* [79] 910.
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l. Commons Amendts.* *July 5*, 568;
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Q. Mr. Warner; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 27* [81] 437.

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2R.* *Feb. 16* [79] 195.
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l. Commons Amendts.* *July 31*, 143.
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c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1037.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1215.
2R.* *Feb. 20* [79] 551.
Report,* *Mar. 26* [81] 333.
*Con.** *Apr. 6*, 1387.
3R.* *Apr 26* [82] 1.
l. 1R.* *Apr. 30*, 247.
2R.* *May 10* [82] 1183.
Report from Committee of Selection, *May 25* [83] 1225; *June 25* [84] 876.
Report from Select Committee, *July 2* [85] 195.

Wolverhampton Gas Bill
c. Ordered, *Feb. 9* [78] 1037.
1R.* *Feb. 12*, 1215.
2R.* *Mar. 12* [80] 562.
Report,* *May 3* [82] 573.
*Con.** *May 14* [83] 20.
3R.* *May 17*, 386.
l. 1R.* *May 18*, 530.
2R.* *June 19* [84] 410.
Report,* *June 25*, 875.
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c. Lords Amendts.* *July 10*, 1103.
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Technical Instruction Committees—Women Members, Return, *Apr. 5* [81] 1253; *July 20* [86] 639.
Q. Sir R. Jebb; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, *Apr. 3* [81] 1066.
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Qs. Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 9* [85] 958; *July 31* [87] 177.
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Woodbridge District Water Bill
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2R.* *Feb. 19* [79] 355.
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3R.* *May 14* [83] 20.
l. 1R.* *May 15*, 150.
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Report,* *June 25* [84] 875.
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l. Royal Assent, *July 10*, 1078.

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- Glasgow Telephone Service—Post Office and the National Telephone Company—Corporation Grievance, etc., *Apr. 27* [82] 177
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- Lancashire Electric Power Bill, 2R., *Mar. 1* [79] 1386, 1393, 1406.
- Volunteers' Officers, Sons, Education of—Fees at Sandhurst and Woolwich, *June 26* [84] 1123.
- Workmen's Compensation Act—Extension to Casual Labourers, *Feb. 1* [78] 284.

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- Business of the House—Amendment on the Address, *Feb. 8* [78] 939.
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- Coal Mines Regulation Acts Amendment Bill, 2R., *Mar. 28* [81] 597.
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- Mines (Eight Hours) Bill, 2R., *Feb. 28* [79] 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339.
- Pontypool Road Timekeeper's Office—Removal, *May 8* [82] 1095; *May 22* [83] 935.
- Poor Law Buildings—Extension of period for repayment of Loans, *May 17* [83] 414.
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  - Postal Trades Unions, Official Recognition—Reception of Representatives, *Mar. 6* [80] 206; *Apr. 6* [81] 1408.

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  - Chief Registrar's Report under Clause 3, *Apr. 5* [81] 1264.
  - Medical Examinations, *June 21* [84] 631.
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- Investments—Amount invested in 1898-99, Purchase of Ground Rents, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. H. Lewis; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 2* [87] 438.
- Mineral Rights in Wales, *see* Wales—North Wales Lunatic Asylum.
- Rent—Dates of Payment, Change of Gregorian Calendar, proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. M'Laren; *A.* Sir M. H. Beach, *Mar. 30* [81] 799.
- Report, *June 29* [85] 5, 63.
- Salmon, Crown Rights, *see* Salmon Fisheries.
- Vote for, *June 22* [84] 845; *Aug. 2* [87] 537; *Aug. 3*, 707.
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- Factory and Workshop Rules, etc.
  - *O.* Sir F. Flannery, *July 13* [85] 1536.

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- South African War—Transshipment of Wool from Delagoa Bay in German Vessels
  - *Q.* Sir F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *Feb. 26* [79] 1083.
  - Allowing British Steamers to carry Wool tendered by Neutral Shippers
    - *Q.* Sir F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 18* [83] 575.

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  - Engineers, Discharge of—Re-employment in other Departments, proposed
    - *Q.* Sir F. Flannery; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 27* [81] 438.

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  - Guns for Drill Purposes
    - *Q.* Mr. Soames; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 915.
- County Council Election — Allowing Government Workmen time to Vote
  - *Q.* Capt. Norton; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Feb. 22* [79] 803.
- Dockyard Wages—Temporary Employees' Strike
  - *Q.* Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Apr. 30* [82] 275.
- Hospital—Case of Private Mitchell
  - *Qs.* Sir E. Gourley, Mr. Marks; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *June 21* [84] 616.
- Ordnance Factory—Pay of Foremen
  - *Q.* Capt. Bowles; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 2* [79] 1522.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Stuart-Wortley; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Apr. 2* [81] 940.
- Royal Military College
  - Fees—Auxiliary Officers' Sons
    - *Q.* Sir J. Woodhouse; *A.* Mr. Wyndam, *June 26* [84] 1123; *O.* Mr. B. Roberts, *Aug. 8* [87] 992.
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    - *Q.* Adm. Field; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Feb. 22* [79] 792.

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- Assizes—Judges' Disapproval of Verdict of Jury—Establishment of Court of Criminal Appeal, proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 10* [85] 1118.
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  - *Q.* Mr. Allsopp; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Feb. 23* [79] 931.
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  - *Q.* Gen. Laurie; *A.* Mr. J. P. Williams, *Mar. 15* [80] 906.
- Strength of each Battalion, etc.
  - *Q.* Gen. Laurie; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *Mar. 20* [80] 1308.

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- Accommodation, Excess of
  - *Q.* Col. Pryce Jones; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 26* [81] 319.
  - Monmouthshire, Reducing Number of Workhouses proposed
    - *Q.* Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr T. W. Russell, *Apr. 2* [81] 946; *Q.* Col. Pryce-Jones; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Aug. 7* [87] 935.
  - Powers of Closing
    - *Q.* Sir J. Rankin; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *May 25* [83] 1299.
- Bethnal Green Infirmary—Application for Nursing Staff, etc., Decision of the Local Government Board
  - *Q.* Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 6* [80] 211.
- Dietary Regulations—Delay in Issuing
  - *Q.* Mr. Hazell; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 6* [80] 209.
- Chaplains—Workhouses without Religious Ministrations
  - *Q.* Mr. Talbot; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Feb. 27* [79] 1218; *Qs.* Mr. Talbot, Lord H. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Chaplin, *Aug. 3* [87] 646.
  - Debate in Com. of Supply, *Aug. 2* [87] 510.
- Cottage Homes Bill—Recommendations of Select Committee, Legislation proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. Paulton; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *May 10* [82] 1248.
- Eton Union Workhouse Fatality
  - *Q.* Sir J. Savory; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 13* [80] 737.
- Imbeciles—Accommodation for, at Caterham and Leavesdon Asylums
  - *Q.* Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Aug. 7* [87] 936.
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    - Master, Postponement of Appointment, etc.
      - *Q.* Mr. Daly; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 20* [86] 661.
    - Old Soldiers, Inquiry proposed
      - *Q.* Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 31* [87] 168.
  - Boarded out Children, Number of sane Epileptics in Workhouses, etc.—Return, *May 8* [82] 1000.
  - Carrickmacross, *see* that title.
  - Coleraine — Registering Roman Catholic Children as Protestant in Workhouse Books, Case of R. O'Brien's Children
    - *Qs.* Mr. S. Young, Mr. T. P. O'Connor; *As.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 5* [85] 637.
  - Dietary Regulations—Giving greater Freedom to Guardians, proposed
    - *Q.* Capt. Donelan; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 24* [86] 1059.

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  - Dungannon — Number of Roman Catholic Officials and Inmates
    - *Q.* Mr. Doogan ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 9* [80] 490.
  - Monaghan Workhouses Amalgamation—Local Government Board Inquiry
    - *Q.* Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 2* [85] 282.
  - Newry Board of Guardians, case of John Hogan—Laying Report on the Table
    - *Q.* Mr. Macaleese ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 22* [83] 940.
  - Paupers' Religion—Derry Workhouse, Case of Martha Bradley
    - *Q.* Mr. M'Cartan ; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *May 17* [83] 423.
  - Shillelagh Union
    - Night Nurse for Infirmary—Refusal to sanction Appointment of Untrained Nurse
      - *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Feb. 22* [79] 815.
    - Spirituous Liquors, Consumption —Return
      - *Q.* Mr. Daly ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *Mar. 27* [81] 450.
- Loans for Poor Law Buildings—Extension of Period for Repayment of Loans proposed
  - *Q.* Mr. L. Fry ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *May 28* [83] 1506.
- Lunatics and Epileptics, Number of, not classed as Insane—Return, *Aug. 6* [87] 765 ; *Aug. 7*, 897.
- Metropolitan — Number of Children in Workhouses
  - *Q.* Dr. Farquharson ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Mar. 29* [81] 701.
- St. Pancras—Parents' Consent to Re-Vaccination of Children
  - *Q.* Mr. Channing ; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *Apr. 26* [82] 16.

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l. 1R.* *Feb. 13* [78] 1354.
2R.* *Feb. 20* [79] 501.
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Report from Committee of Selection, *May 11* [82] 1355 ; *May 14* [83] 5.
Report from Select Committee, *June 29* [85] 2.
3R.* *July 5*, 567.
c. 1R.* *July 5*, 64.
Report from Select Committee, *July 16* [86] 55.
2R.* *July 19*, 450.
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*Con.** and 3R.* *Aug. 2*, 409.
l. Commons Amendts.* *Aug. 3*, 569.
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- Accident occurring off Employer's Premises, Case of J. Carroll
  - *Qs.* Mr. Austin, Mr. J. Redmond ; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *Apr. 3* [81] 1076 ; *Q.* Mr. Austin ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Apr. 5*, 1274.
- Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies Report under Clause 3
  - *Q.* Mr. Woods ; *A.* Mr. J. Collings, *Apr. 5* [81] 1264.
- Committal for Non-payment of Awards, Judges' Decision—Bailey *v.* Plant
  - *Q.* Mr. M'Kenna ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *June 26* [84] 1133 ; *Q.* Col. Milward ; *A.* Sir R. Finlay, *July 5* [85] 633.
- Duration of Employment, Appeal Court—Sysons *v.* Knowles, Decision
  - *Q.* Mr. Pickersgill ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Mar. 8* [80] 392.
- Extension
  - Agricultural Labourers
    - *Q.* Mr. Loyd ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Feb. 20* [79] 577 ; *Q.* Mr. Seely ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 17* [83] 426.
  - Casual Labourers—Extension of Act
    - *Q.* Sir J. T. Woodhouse ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Feb. 1* [78] 284 ; *Q.* Mr. Provand ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *Feb. 15* [79] 83.
  - Merchant Seamen
    - *Q.* Mr. Provand ; *A.* Sir M. W Ridley, *Feb. 15* [79] 83 ; *Q.* Mr. H. Wilson, *May 28* [83] 1590.
  - Soldiers and Sailors—Military and Naval Service
    - *Qs.* Mr. M'Kenna ; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 14* [83] 42 ; *June 18* [84] 279 ; *Q.* Col. Pryce-Jones ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *June 25* [84] 920 ; *Q.* Sir C. Dilke, *July 27* [86] 1540 ; *Q.* Mr. M'Kenna ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 2* [87] 422.
    - Number of Men Receiving Compensation, Amount of Compensation, etc.
      - Return, *June 14* [84] 10 ; *July 16* [86] 57.
      - Resolution (Mr. M'Kenna), *May 1* [82] 489.
- Medical Examinations—Clause 11
  - *Q.* Mr. Woods ; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, *June 21* [84] 631.
- Proceedings in Sheriffs Courts in Scotland and in the County Courts in Ireland—Statistics, *Apr. 26* [82] 8 ; *Apr. 30*, 250.
- Proceedings—Statistics *July 26* [86] 1269, 1297.
- Registrar of Friendly Societies Powers Miners' Contracting-out Schemes, etc.
  - Debate in Com. of Supply, *May 11* [82] 1457.

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O. Mr. Lees-Knowles, *May 17* [83] 525.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 2* [78] 409.

Bill Withdrawn, *Apr. 4* [81] 1178.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No. 3) Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 2* [78] 422.

Petition, *Mar. 27* [81] 430; *May 9* [82] 1147; *May 11*, 136.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Extension Bill

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2R., *Mar. 21* [80] 1405.
Report* *Apr. 2* [81] 958.
Con., *June 20* [84] 525.
3R., *June 27*, 1209.
l. 2R., *July 5* [85] 571.
Com., *July 6*, 763.
Report* *July 10*, 1096; *July 13*, 1430
3R., *July 16* [86] 37.
c. Lords Amendt.* *July 17*, 240.
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